

David Walker, Chairman
Tony Brown, Vice Chairman
Barry McPeters, Commissioner
Lynn Greene, Commissioner
Brenda Vaughn, Commissioner



Ashley Wooten, County Manager
Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board
Donald Fred Coats, County Attorney

DECLARATION of a LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY McDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a serious communicable disease that can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, in response to the global spread of the virus and the disease it causes, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States; the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19; and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of North Carolina has proclaimed a statewide state of emergency, and has banned mass gatherings involving more than one hundred persons, and the CDC has recommended no gatherings of more than fifty persons for the next eight weeks; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with healthcare professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in McDowell County remain safe and secure.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority contained in the McDowell County State of Emergency Ordinance and under Article 1A of Chapter 166A and 36A of Chapter 14 of North Carolina General Statutes, and under the McDowell County Emergency Operations Plan; I hereby declare a State of Emergency for McDowell County and the Town of Old Fort beginning upon adoption of this Declaration and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

It is further declared that the Emergency Operations Plan adopted by McDowell County, and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this Declaration expires or is rescinded. All Emergency Management and Health and Medical Services personnel are hereby ordered to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the County's Emergency Operations Plan.

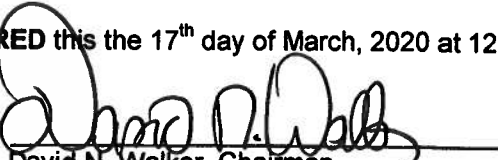
I hereby order this Declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Board of McDowell County Commissioners; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect on the 17th day of March, 2020 at 12:00noon and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 17th day of March, 2020 at 12noon.


Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board




David N. Walker, Chairman
McDowell County Board of Commissioners