



## PORTAGE COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION REGARDING COVID-19

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 2020-1

March 19, 2020

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus now named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was detected and has spread through many countries, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency; and on March 12, 2020, the State of Wisconsin has declared the existence of a public health emergency, as defined in Section 323.02(16), Wisconsin Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the existence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Wisconsin constitutes a condition within the County posing an imminent threat of disaster within the meaning of Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin Statutes that could impair medical care, health protection, and other critical systems of Portage County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons within Portage County, that reasonable and prudent steps be taken to treat those infected with COVID-19 and to prevent, limit, and contain the potential community spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring continuity of critical operations within Portage County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Holman**, County Executive of Portage County, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Wisconsin, Wis. Stat. § 59.17, Portage County Code of Ordinances, and Portage County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 226-2018-2020 (March 17, 2020), hereby:

1. Proclaim a state of public health emergency in effect for the time during which the emergency conditions related to the public health threat posed by COVID-19 exist or are likely to exist;
2. Proclaim that I shall use my discretion to exercise all of the powers conferred upon the governing body under all applicable statutes and ordinances, which appear necessary and expedient during said state of emergency; and

3. Direct that the following measures shall take effect immediately in order to facilitate the county's response to meet the needs of the extraordinary existing conditions of this emergency:
- A. The county's Policy for Employees and Measures to Limit Symptoms or Exposure of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (the county's COVID-19 policy) is now in effect and shall remain in effect throughout the duration of this public health emergency;
  - B. Pursuant to the county's COVID-19 policy, the county and each county department are directed to activate updated Continuity of Operations Plans within two weeks of the effective date of this order; and
  - C. Pursuant to the county's COVID-19 policy, I determine that teleworking is necessary, thereby invoking all terms and conditions of Section 9. TELEWORK in the county's COVID-19 policy.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I, Chris Holman, Portage County Executive, hereby sign this order and affix the seal of Portage County on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year 2020.

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Chris Holman, County Executive  
Portage County