

**ESSEX COUNTY**  
**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**  
**AND**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020, designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of international concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire Country to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo, pursuant to Executive Order 202, declared a disaster emergency in the State of New York in response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the travel related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented throughout New York State and, of particular concern Saratoga County, and more cases are expected throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, according to state officials it is only a matter of time when COVID-19 appears in Essex County and poses an existential threat to the health, welfare and well-being of our residents; and

**WHEREAS**, as the threat of this virus is imminent to the citizens and visitors of Essex County, it is necessary that Essex County be proactive and fully prepared to deal with its effects.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that pursuant to New York Executive Law Article 2-B and Section 24 thereof, and by reason of a disaster, catastrophe or similar public emergency within the territorial limits of **ESSEX COUNTY** which imperils public safety, health and welfare, namely the existence and spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, a **LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY** is hereby proclaimed and declared to exist in **ESSEX COUNTY** effective as of 9:00 a.m. on March 10, 2020. This state of emergency shall continue until revoked and the conditions hereinbelow set forth shall continue unless sooner terminated by a declaration that the state of emergency no longer exists or the state of emergency is extended.

***IT IS HEREBY ORDERED*** that during the period of the state of emergency and in order to protect life and property and bring the emergency situation under control the following orders/conditions shall be in full force and effect:

1. All necessary agencies and departments shall take appropriate action to contain, prepare for, respond to and recover from this County emergency; to protect County and local property; to assist local government and individuals; and to provide such other assistance as it is necessary to protect public health, welfare, and safety without County Board approval provided authorization is granted by the County Chairman or County Manager.
2. Any and all Essex County local laws, rules, regulations or resolutions shall be temporarily suspended or modified, if compliance with such would prevent, hinder or delay action necessary to cope with the disaster emergency or, if necessary to assist or aid in coping with such disaster.
3. Adherence to the Essex County Procurement Policy and/or provisions of the General Municipal Law as they relate to purchasing and procurement is hereby suspended to the extent necessary to add additional work, sites and time to contracts, or to award emergency contracts, including but not limited to, emergency contracts for leases for relocation and support of County operations; emergency contracts for professional services; emergency contracts for commodities, services and technology; emergency contracts for purchases of commodities, services and technology through any federal programs or other state, regional, local, multi-jurisdictional, or cooperative contracts; required to ameliorate and remedy this emergency situation. In these instances competitive bidding, or proposals shall not be required and emergency purchases are authorized in the discretion of the County Chairman, County Manager or County Purchasing Agent.
4. Authorizing the Essex County Chairman or County Manager to execute any and all emergency contracts for these necessary services as hereinabove delineated without the necessity of procurement.
5. Authorization of emergency contracts for food, supplies and equipment and manpower, and all other essential resources in addition to testing supplies

and equipment, without following the standard notice and procurement processes.

6. To any extent necessary and subject to the approval of Linda Beers, Essex County Health Director, to permit unlicensed individuals, upon completion of training deemed adequate by her, to collect throat or nasopharyngeal swab specimens from individuals suspected of being infected by COVID-19, for purposes of testing; and to the extent necessary to permit non-nursing staff, upon completion of training deemed adequate by her, to perform tasks, under the supervision of a nurse, otherwise limited to the scope of practice of a licensed or registered nurse.
7. All County and Town resources, equipment, manpower, and personnel shall be coordinated and shared to help remedy this emergency.
8. Any and all emergency actions will be documented and justified.

This proclamation and order signed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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**Hon. Shaun Gilliland, Chairman**

**Essex County Board of Supervisors**