

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

1. The recent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic now includes presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Sarasota County. The COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant risk to the health and safety of the population.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic’s potential for transmission throughout the population and increased strain on existing health care resources creates the threat of significant public and private financial loss and poses an immediate and present danger to the health and safety of the citizens of Sarasota County, necessitating the exercise of all reasonable preparatory, precautionary, and remedial measures.

3. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens and would constitute a natural disaster for Sarasota County warranting the declaration of an emergency pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)5, Florida Statutes.

4. It is the intent of Sarasota County that by declaration of this state of emergency, Sarasota County may invoke the powers granted to it pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and its adopted emergency management plan. It is further the intent of Sarasota County that by declaration of this state of emergency, Sarasota County, its citizens and municipalities may be eligible for financial assistance available through the state or federal government.

5. In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders Nos. 20-51 and 20-52, which declared a state of emergency due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the intent of Sarasota County that by declaration of this state of emergency, Sarasota County shall make available all public resources necessary to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19 pursuant to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

6. Pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Board of County Commissioners in the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and under Sarasota County Code Section 2-217(h)(1), I may declare the existence of an emergency procurement condition and suspend any or all of the provisions of the Procurement Code and authorize emergency procurement.

7. Pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Board of County Commissioners in the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan together with the authority granted to Sarasota County under Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, I promulgate the following Declaration, to take immediate effect:

SECTION 1. Declaration of a State of Emergency.

Because of the foregoing conditions, it is hereby declared that due to the COVID-19 pandemic a state of emergency exists in Sarasota County. It is further declared that the COVID-19 pandemic is a natural emergency, as defined in Chapter 252, resulting in substantial damage to or loss of property that has caused or threatens to cause injury or harm to the citizens of Sarasota County. By this declaration, Sarasota County hereby invokes the emergency management powers granted to it pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, its adopted emergency management plan and the Governor’s Executive Orders Nos. 20-51 and 20-52.

SECTION 2. Authorization to Apply for Federal and State Assistance.

Sarasota County is hereby authorized to apply for any federal or state financial assistance to assist in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic including financial losses and illnesses as a result of the impacts sustained to Sarasota County and its residents.

SECTION 3. Declaration of an Emergency Procurement Condition.

Sarasota County hereby declares an emergency procurement condition exists and suspends all the provisions of the Procurement Code and Procurement Manual and authorizes emergency procurements. The County Administrator hereby delegates his procurement authority under this Declaration to the Sarasota County Procurement Official.

SECTION 4. Effective Date, Duration and Area.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately and shall be effective throughout Sarasota County, including its municipalities. The state of emergency declared herein shall remain in force for seven days from the date hereof, unless extended pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes.

Approved:



Jonathan R. Lewis
County Administrator

March 15, 2020
Date