

## **EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

**WHEREAS,** the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency on Friday March 13, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Emergency in Georgia on March 14, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS,** the World Health Organization has declared the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and a pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS,** COVID-19 has caused or contributed to numerous deaths in Dougherty County and numerous persons having been infected with the virus, some of which appears to have been caused by people attending public gatherings where people either carrying the virus or already infected by the virus were in attendance; and

**WHEREAS,** numerous individuals have been tested for COVID-19 in the Dougherty County/Worth County area and are awaiting the results of those tests, and

**WHEREAS,** health experts have encouraged elderly citizens to remain in their residences, businesses to allow employees to work remotely, when possible, and citizens to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from others when possible and to avoid gatherings of more than ten (10) persons, and

**WHEREAS,** medical professionals have encouraged Worth County to take aggressive steps to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and

**WHEREAS,** the Worth County Emergency Management Ordinance grants to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Worth County the power to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public during a declared state of emergency; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Worth County did so resolve on March \_\_\_, 2020 that a state of emergency be declared in Worth County and activated the Worth County Emergency Management Operations Plan to assist in the implementation of Governor Kemp's declared Public Health State of Emergency and those ordinances remain in full force and effect with this declaration; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have recommended that any gathering of over 10 people be discontinued or prohibited; and

**WHEREAS,** the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners has consulted with the Worth County Board of Commissioners, Worth County EMA Director, Worth County Board of Health and the Sheriff of Worth County and all are in agreement that due to the extent of this emergency, aggressive measures must be taken to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** as follows:

**Section 1:**     Individual Responsibility. Any person showing symptoms recognized by the CDC as indicators of COVID-19 shall refrain from entering public buildings, restaurants, shops, public transportation facilities and all other areas where the public ingresses or egresses. Such person should seek medical attention and follow the directions of their Health Care Professional until given the clearance to return to public interaction. Social distancing is the most effective manner of stopping the spread of this emergency. Notwithstanding the provisions limiting public and private gatherings herein, to the extent practicable, it is in the best interest of citizens of Worth County to not gather in crowds of 10 or more in any location except in an authorized, official government capacity. It is further highly encouraged that all citizens of Worth County limit travel both inside and outside of the County for only essential needs.

**Section 2:**     Limitations on Gatherings and Mandatory Closures

(A)       *Public or Private Gatherings.* Public or private gatherings of more than ten (10) persons are prohibited anywhere in Worth County for the duration of this Executive Order, unless amended. For the purposes of this Order, a “gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, which brings together or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent, arena, event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space, to include birthday parties, family reunions, baby showers, weddings, and funerals. For purposes of this Executive Order, a “gathering” shall not include the following:

- (i)       Office space, public or private schools, child-care facilities or residential buildings (such as assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities or apartments) provided further that if gatherings are greater than 10 at a single residence all persons are residents of the household;
- (ii)       Hospitals and medical facilities, and
- (i)       (iii)   Grocery stores, shopping centers or malls and other retail establishments. However, all businesses listed in this subsection shall be limited to a maximum number of fifty percent (50%) of the Fire Marshal occupancy capacity (includes employees). Additionally, where possible, all persons shall maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet as recommended by the CDC. all businesses will be required to adhere to the CDC’s cleaning and disinfecting guidelines for business and employers in the workplace.

(B)       *Gyms and Physical Fitness Centers.* Gyms and physical fitness centers shall be closed for the term of this Executive Order except where less than ten (10) persons are present at any one time. In the event persons are allowed into the facility, the admittee shall be free from any symptoms of COVID-19 (as recognized by the CDC as indicators of COVID-19) and any persons inside the facility shall maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet. The business will be required to adhere to the CDC’s guidelines on hand washing and cleaning and disinfecting in the workplace.

(C)       *Restaurants, Clubs and Bars.*

- (ii)       All bars, restaurants, clubs or businesses who sell food or beverages for consumption on premises or who provide entertainment (including, but not limited to, pool halls, dancing, music, gaming, etc.) on-site shall be closed to in-

person, on-premises dining, consumption of alcohol, or entertainment until the expiration of this order. Bars, restaurants, and other businesses who sell food may offer food for take-away, curb-side service, delivery or for customers to eat somewhere other than at the premises.

- (iii) Businesses affected by these closures shall establish procedures that restrict in-person contact as much as possible, to include not permitting no more than three (3) customers at a time to be inside the premises. Such processes may include the business taking the food to the customer's vehicle rather than the customer coming inside the business.
- (iv) Furthermore, the business shall ensure that all onsite consumption of food is prohibited, and that employees and contractors of the business maintain at least 6 feet of personal distance between themselves as much as possible, given the physical constraints of the premises. Additionally, all businesses will be required to adhere to the CDC's cleaning and disinfecting guidelines for business and employers in the workplace.

(D) *Worship Services.* No worship services shall be held in Worth County if attended by more than ten (10) persons, during the term of this Order. This directive include, but not be limited to the following: church services, funerals, weddings, baptisms, church suppers, Wednesday night services, Bible study, Sunday school, choir practice, Brotherhood meetings, Deacons meetings, and revivals, as well as any and all other such meetings related to church services. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit churches from livestreaming services or holding services remotely as long as such live-streaming or remote services do not result in more than ten (10) persons being present at any single location. In the event persons are gathered as permitted herein, the attendees shall be free from any symptoms of COVID-19 (as recognized by the CDC as indicators of COVID-19) and any persons gathering shall maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet. Funeral homes shall ensure vehicles used to transport families in the event of a funeral service shall be thoroughly cleaned between uses in accordance with CDC guidelines.

(E) *Playground, Parks and Recreation Department.* All public playgrounds, public parks and the Recreation Department services shall be closed for the term of this executive order.

**Section 3:** Curfew. A curfew is imposed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. effective immediately. Residents, unless "exempt individuals" as defined herein, shall remain in their homes or on their property. Exempt individuals include those individuals engaged in the provision of designated, essential services, such as (1) fire; (2) law enforcement; (3) medical and hospital services; (4) military services; (5) utility emergency repairs; (6) persons seeking emergency medical services or hospital services; (7) individuals traveling to, from or for their jobs with appropriate identification; (8) individuals engaged in the delivery of food, medicine, medical supplies, fuel including but not limited to the re-stocking of grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores; and (9) news media employees.

**Section 4:** Term. This Executive Order is authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-3-28(a) and the Code of Ordinances of Worth County and shall be effective commencing at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020, and shall continue until 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020, subject to this Executive Order being continued, renewed or amended by a subsequent Executive Order

or the Declaration of Emergency signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Worth County is terminated.

**Section 5.** Any violation of this Executive Order shall be punished pursuant to Section 1-11 of the Code of Ordinances of Worth County. The Sheriff of Worth County and his lawful deputies, shall be authorized to enforce this Order.

**SO ORDERED**, this 23rd day of March, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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Fred Dent, Chairman  
Worth County Board of Commissioners

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Larry Johnson, Mayor, Pro Tem  
City of Sylvester

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Dustin Grubbs, Mayor  
City of Poulan

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Howard Vogan, Mayor  
City of Sumner

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Juanita Kitchen, Mayor  
City of Warwick

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Tom Whittington  
Worth County EMA Director

