



PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS GUILFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that can result in serious illness and/or death and is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans and can spread easily from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and within the United States and has advised that person-to-person spread will continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, on January 31, 2020, declared a public health emergency for the United States due to the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 within the state and within Guilford County; and

WHEREAS, Roy Cooper, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, declared a state of emergency for the entire state, effective March 10, 2020, due to the continued and ongoing threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The State of North Carolina has activated the North Carolina Emergency Operation Center and State Emergency Response Team to manage the public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, The County of Guilford with consent of incorporation by the Cities of Greensboro, High Point, and Gibsonville, along with the Towns of Jamestown, Summerfield, Stokesdale, Oak Ridge, Whitsett, Sedalia, and Pleasant Garden, declared a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NC DHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains mitigated and that residents in Guilford County remain safe and secure, including guidance issued March 16, 2020 recommending limiting group gatherings to no more than 10 persons; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Guilford County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Article II of Chapter 7.5 of the Guilford County Code of Ordinances:

Section 1. A State of Emergency continues within the jurisdiction of Guilford County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be the entirety of Guilford County by the requests of the mayors or their appointed representatives of the Cities of Greensboro, High Point, and Gibsonville, along with the Towns of Jamestown, Summerfield, Stokesdale, Oak Ridge, Whitsett, Sedalia, and Pleasant Garden.

Section 3. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 166A-19.31, Guilford County can enact a variety of different restrictions and/or prohibitions as this evolving situation warrants;

Section 4: I hereby impose the following restrictions and prohibitions for the welfare and safety of the residents of Guilford County:

1. Prohibit the assembly of gatherings of more than 10 persons.

a. A gathering is defined as any event or convening that brings together more

than 10 persons in a single room or single space at the same time. A single space may include facilities such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, conference room, meeting hall, theater or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

- b. A gathering does not include businesses and operations associated with maintaining federally identified critical infrastructure or operations and conducting essential activities. Federally identified critical infrastructure components consist of manufacturing, assembly, maintenance or operation of communications systems, defense industrial base operations, operation of dams, operation and maintenance of energy industries and distribution, food and agriculture, financial institutions, government facilities and operations, including essential court facilities and operations, water supply, wastewater treatment, information technology, transportation systems, healthcare and public health; critical manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, emergency services; social services and retail providers of essential goods such as grocery stores, pet stores, hardware stores, pharmacies, retailers and not for profit providing commodities or services essential for basic living. More specifically, for the purposes of this Order, **other businesses excluded from this prohibition of gatherings more than 10 people include:**
- i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
 - ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
 - iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
 - iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
 - v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
 - vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
 - vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
 - viii. Hardware stores;
 - ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, and essential businesses as defined in this Order;
 - x. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
 - xi. Educational institutions-including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;
 - xii. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
 - xiii. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services

under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;

- xiv. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xv. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xvi. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xvii. Essential airport operations, Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xviii. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xix. Residential facilities include hotels, motels, shared rental units and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xx. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- xxi. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted from the provisions of this Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions to work as permitted.

2. Restrictions on the use of playgrounds

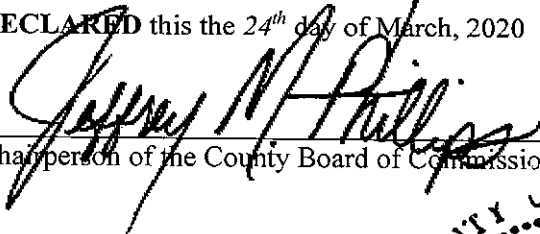
- a. The use of publicly and privately-owned playground equipment is prohibited. No prohibition exists for the areas surrounding playground equipment including greenways, walking trails or other amenities of open spaces or parks. This does not include privately owned playground equipment located on residential property.

Section 5. I hereby order all Guilford County law enforcement officers, employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Guilford County Emergency Operations Plan. This order is issued pursuant to the provision of Chapters 166A and 153A of the North Carolina General Statutes. *Violations of this Order may be subject to prosecution pursuant to N.C. Gen Stat. 166a-19.30(d) and is punishable as a Class 2 Misdemeanor in accordance with N.C. Gen Stat. 14-288.20(a). Violations of this order may be subject to civil remedies set out in N. C. Gen. Stat. 153A-123 and Chapter 1, Section 1.14 of the Guilford County Code of Ordinances.*

Section 6. 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 County Commissioners; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 7. This declaration shall take effect on *March 25 at 5:00 pm*, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 24th day of March, 2020 at 6:30PM.



Chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

