

RESOLUTION 20-2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
RATIFYING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES TO
RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

Recitals:

1. On March 5, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Grant County, Washington, and the Grant County Health District and the Washington State Department of Health have since worked to identify, contact, monitor and test others in Grant County potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
2. COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and
3. The CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "very high," and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States and Grant County; and
4. The DOH currently indicates there are over 1996 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and 95 fatalities, and the DOH confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State's general public creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and
5. Seven confirmed cases, and several persons under investigation (PUI) cases of COVID-19 already exist in Grant County, COVID-19 already caused the death of one Grant County resident, and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Grant County may significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as our economy, and is a public health disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace; and
6. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and
7. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning February 29, 2020; and
8. On March 2, 2020, the Grant County Health District activated its District Operations Center to manage their response to the COVID-19 cases; and
9. On March 12th, 2020, the Grant County Health Officer proclaimed a countywide public health emergency (Per RCW 70.05.070) for COVID-19; and



10. On March 13, 2020, the Grant County Board of Commissioners declared a State of Emergency in Grant County, beginning March 13, 2020; and
11. There is an emergency present which necessitates activation of the Grant County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to Chapter 38.52 RCW, Chapter 70.05 RCW, and Grant County Code (GCC) 2.32; and
12. On March 23, 2020, Board Chair Massa, Health Officer Brzezny, and Administrator Adkinson issued a Declaration of Emergency, declaring COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in Grant County pursuant to Section 38.52.010 RCW, Chapter 70.05 RCW, and other relevant provisions of state, local, and federal law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Health of the Grant County Health District, Grant County, Washington, that:

Section 1. Ratification and Findings of Fact.

The Board hereby ratifies the Declaration of Emergency issued by Board Chair Massa, Health Officer Brzezny, and Administrator Adkinson for the Grant County Health District on March 23, 2020. The Board further finds that an emergency exists pursuant to Section 39.04.280(2)(b) RCW and Chapter 70.05 RCW and authorizes the District Administrator to waive any necessary competitive bidding requirements related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Section 2. Board's Response.

- A. The Board is committed to protecting the public and staff by minimizing the spread of COVID-19. The Board has and will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Grant County Health Officer, who prescribe social distancing and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.
- B. The Board closed the District offices to the general public beginning March 17, 2020 and until further notice. Citizens may pay bills, acquire licenses, submit permit applications, contact staff, and transact other District business via telephone, email, and online. The Administrator will create procedures to allow curbside pickup and drop-off for certain District processes, with such procedures to be posted on the District's website.
- C. The District will increase its efforts to sanitize its facilities which remain occupied by staff and limited public entry to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

Section 3. District Procedures.

During the terms of this Resolution, the following amendments to District procedures are hereby adopted:

- A. Any rule or procedure adopted by the District that would prevent or prohibit all Board members from attending Board meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all Board members are encouraged to attend all meetings via telephone.
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- B. All in-person Committee meetings of the Board are cancelled. Board and Committee meetings may be held telephonically during the term of this Resolution regardless of whether the District the capability of recording meetings on video.
- C. The District directs that the public comment portion of Board meetings and any scheduled public hearings be temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of Board meetings. The District Board and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email or written comment.
- D. Any District or Board rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during the term of this Resolution.

Section 4. Budget.

During the term of this Resolution, the Board adopts the following budget restrictions:

- A. A hiring freeze is hereby implemented on all positions funded by any governmental fund, unless the Administrator and Health Officer determine in writing by notice to the Board that the hire is necessary for the continued provision of essential services to the public.
- B. All non-essential equipment replacements are hereby suspended, unless the replacement is completely funded by grants.
- C. The Board hereby encourages the expenditure of funds for acquiring any necessary technology to facilitate employees to work from home in situations where such remote work is possible, available and approved by the Administrator. Any such expenditures should either be within current budget allocations or brought to the Board for approval.
- D. All staff time dedicated to emergency health responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic must be tracked to allow for FEMA reimbursement.

Section 5. Effectiveness.

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire on June 10, 2020 unless further extended by formal action of the Board.

PASSED BY THE GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND SIGNED BY ITS CHAIR ON April 8, 2020.

Tony Massa, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Theresa Adkinson, Administrator