

**PROCLAMATION
DECLARING JO DAVIESS COUNTY A DISASTER AREA
FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, Jo Daviess County must take action to contain and mitigate the local impact of the expanding global outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to provide for the continuity of government, activation of community mitigation plans, and to allow for expedited response without circumventing constitutional protections for citizens, and;

WHEREAS, currently, the only remedy allowed by statute and County Ordinance that will enable Jo Daviess County to achieve these goals is to issue a local disaster proclamation, and;

WHEREAS, this proclamation will assist Jo Daviess County, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and Health Department, to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities and suspend certain provisions and procedures for the conduct of county business in an effort to protect the health and safety of persons, and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law, and;

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19 including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) considers the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19, to be high, both globally and to the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends all communities take measures to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the CDC indicates that more cases of COVID-19 are expected in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread and as the outbreak continues, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States is expected to occur, and:

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020, and;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020, and;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic as of March 11, 2020, and;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois has issued further requirements for social distancing and elimination of certain community events in the state on March 12, 2020, and;

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency as defined under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act, and;

WHEREAS, the Jo Daviess County Courthouse and the Public Safety Building are anticipated to remain operational, however additional steps must be taken to ensure the health of the public and the health of county employees. Therefore, the Jo Daviess County Sheriff is hereby authorized to implement procedures to screen members of the public and county employees prior to entering the Courthouse and/or Public Safety Building, and;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Jo Daviess County to be prepared to address any disasters and therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional resources within Jo Daviess County available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Jo Daviess County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, while Jo Daviess County is presently responding to this situation, it is deemed necessary to activate Jo Daviess County emergency operations plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Jo Daviess County. This proclamation of disaster will assist the residents of Jo Daviess County by and through its Emergency Management Agency and through coordination of federal, state, county and municipal resources and response activities, in an effort to prevent and reduce further damage and hazards, protect the health and safety of persons, protect property and provide emergency response, and;

NOW THEREFORE I, Scott Toot by virtue of the authority vested in me as County Board Chairperson of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, and the Jo Daviess County Code of Ordinances Title 5-1A-4 proclaim that a disaster exists within Jo Daviess County Illinois.

Approved:



Scott Toot, Chairperson
Jo Daviess County Board

Attest:



Angela Kaiser
County Clerk