

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY  
IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 EPIDEMIC**

**WHEREAS,** on March 6, 2020, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb declared a public health emergency in the State of Indiana as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19). On March 11, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared COVID-19 a pandemic and on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared COVID-19 a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS,** to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Indiana Department of Health (“ISDH”) have recommended implementation of mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus; and

**WHEREAS,** in light of the above, it is necessary and proper to take further actions to protect the health, safety and welfare of all Hoosiers in connection with the continuing and evolving threat posed to public health by COVID-19

**NOW THEREFORE,** the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lake declare this to be an emergency and take action as follows:

1. All Essential Employees of the Sheriff’s Police, Correction’s Staff and 911 Communications staff are expected to continue their work as usual to ensure the safety of the residents and visitors to Lake County, Indiana. Employees should contact their immediate supervisor with any questions about their specific schedule during reduced building hours.
2. Beginning March 19, 2020 all Lake County Government buildings, including Hammond, Gary and East Chicago, will be closed to the public. Lake County employees will be in office from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Friday. This closure to the public and reduced business hours for Lake County employees will remain in effect until April 5, 2020 with normal business hours and operations resuming on April 6, 2020.
3. The closure to the public and reduced business hours do not apply to persons that are scheduled to attend court or other court related matters between March 19, 2020 and April 5, 2020. Persons with questions regarding court appearances and court related matters should contact that specific court for direction.

This Declaration of Emergency is enacted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Michael C. Repay  
President, Lake County Board of Commissioners