

TOWN OF DOUGLAS

Kevin D. Morse – Chairman
David P. Cortese – Vice Chairman
Timothy P. Bonin
Harold R. Davis
Michael D. Hughes

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
29 Depot Street • Douglas, MA 01516
508-476-4000
Fax: 508-476-1070
TTY 508-476-1619

Matthew J. Wojcik
Town Administrator

Suzanne L. Kane
Administrative Assistant

Declaration of Local State of Emergency – COVID-19

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus causes COVID-19, a highly contagious and potentially serious respiratory disease, with disproportionate impact on medically vulnerable populations; and,

WHEREAS, there are communities worldwide which have struggled to maintain access to and the quality of health care for those most severely affected by COVID-19 due to the numbers of people who have become seriously ill; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National State of Emergency to respond to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor announced specific actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health, have determined that the spread of COVID-19 poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the Town of Douglas; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas Board of Selectmen and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Douglas; and


WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Douglas; and

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director have recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of Douglas,

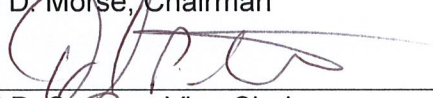
NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of 8:00 P.M. on March 17, 2020, a local state of emergency exists in the Town of Douglas. The following actions are hereby directed and/or authorized:

1. The Town Administrator, or his designee, is hereby authorized to approve emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, over and above the total amount appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2020 Town budget. Said funds shall be appropriated from such sources, or amortized in future fiscal years, pursuant to requirements and authority established by the Commonwealth and approved by this Board of Selectmen and/or Town Meeting as the law requires.
2. The Town Administrator, or his designee, may request additional funds over the \$50,000 authorized above, in writing and with supporting findings of fact, in which case the Board shall consider such request at a posted public meeting.
3. The common areas and public spaces of the Municipal Center shall be closed to the public effective 12:00 A.M. (0:00 hours) Thursday, March 19, 2020. Staff shall be required to report to work and perform their regular duties, or related duties based upon the skills and experience of each employee, as required for COVID-19 response and assigned to individual staff members by the Administrator, any interim Administrator in his absence, or the Emergency Management Director in the absence of both of those people. While the Municipal Center is closed to the public, the following shall occur:
 - a. Signs shall be posted at every door and on all electronic message boards of the Town noting the closure;
 - b. The doors of the Municipal Center shall be locked, with access only by electronic key;
4. Upon a written finding of necessity, filed with the Board, the Town Administrator is hereby authorized further to restrict staff attendance in Town Hall under the following terms:
 - a. The emergency policy at Section 4.8 of the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the Town of Douglas shall be in effect;
 - b. The Town Administrator is authorized to reduce the number of staff allowed access to the building to maintain compliance with federal and state directives regarding group activity, to allow staff who may be a member of a vulnerable population to stay out of work, and generally to reduce the possibility of spread of the coronavirus;
 - c. Staff members who are not required to report to the office under subsection (b) above shall perform their regular duties and such duties are assigned to them from home, and all workplace norms around job performance shall still apply.
5. The Douglas Emergency Operations Center, in operation since 9:00 A.M. Monday, March 16, 2020, shall be the sole authorized public voice of the Town's response to the COVID-19 emergency. Any Town employee who shares response related information or comments on the emergency without the prior, specific authorization of the EOC shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.
6. These policies shall be in effect until altered or terminated by the Board of Selectmen, or until the Governor ends the state of emergency, whichever occurs first.

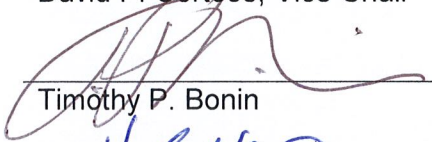
Declaration of Local State of Emergency – COVID-19



Kevin D. Morse, Chairman



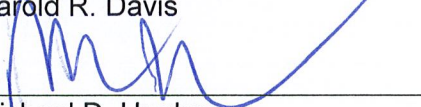
David P. Cortese, Vice Chair



Timothy P. Bonin



Harold R. Davis



Michael D. Hughes

Board of Selectmen
March 17, 2020