

***Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts***

**Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor**

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Emergency Declaration

- Whereas:** a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate public action has arisen within the Town of Weymouth, which is generally described as follows;
- Whereas:** on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020;
- Whereas:** on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the Nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;
- Whereas:** on March 10, 2020, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Charles D. Baker, declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19;
- Whereas:** this disease is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease;
- Whereas:** symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and the disease is thought to be spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;
- Whereas:** according to recent data from federal, state, and local public health authorities, there are more than 114,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, and over 4,000 of those cases have resulted in death; more than 600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, and 25 of those cases have resulted in death; more than 108 confirmed and presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, but none in the Town of Weymouth;
- Whereas:** this outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission significantly affect the life and health of our people and is a disaster that impacts the health, security, and safety of the public;
- 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 the Commonwealth;
- Whereas:** as Mayor of the Town of Weymouth, upon advice of the Director of the Town's Office of Emergency Management, and other public safety and health officials, I determined that the aforesaid incident poses a present and reasonably imminent

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danger to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of the Town of Weymouth or their property so that it is necessary for the Director of Emergency Management to utilize and coordinate the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the Town for the purposes of emergency management and emergency functions;

Whereas: as Mayor, I determined that immediate public action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of Weymouth or their property which may otherwise result from the above described incident and that taking the time, effort, and work necessary to comply with the various state laws and local ordinances may, in some circumstances, endanger the health or safety of the people or their property;

Whereas: declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of federal, state, and local resources and more effective deployment of governmental resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas: the people of the Town of Weymouth should be able to depend upon guidance from their chief executive officer; and

Now Therefore, on this date and after consultation with public health and safety officials, I, Robert L. Hedlund, Mayor of the Town of Weymouth, pursuant to the powers and authority provided to and vested in me by sections 19, 86, and 100 of the chapter 43 of the General Laws, among other General Laws, sections 1-7, 3-2, 6-9 of Weymouth Home Rule Charter and sections 1-102, 5-102, 7-201, 7-301, 13-103(c) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts, among other local authority, do hereby determine that a public health emergency exists and hereby issue this proclamation that there now exists in the Town of Weymouth a STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Pursuant to these powers, I shall from time to time issue recommendations, directives, and orders as circumstances may require.

This proclamation of a STATE OF EMERGENCY is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to my judgment, that the STATE OF EMERGENCY no longer exists.

Given in Town Hall, Town of Weymouth, County of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on 1 : 58 P M this 13th day of March two thousand and twenty.

Approved as to form:



Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor



Robert L. Hedlund, Mayor