

**PROCLAMATION THAT A CIVIL EMERGENCY EXISTS  
IN JASPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI DUE TO THE SPREAD OF  
THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)  
AND IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE,  
MEASURES SUCH AS CURFEW, ADJUSTED BUSINESS CLOSING HOURS,  
LIMITATIONS ON BUSINESS SERVICES AND SOCIAL DISTANCING AND  
LIMITATIONS ON GATHERINGS  
ARE HEREBY ORDERED FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS COMMENCING AT 5:00 O'CLOCK  
P.M. ON April 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. 33-15-11(b)(17) Governor Tate Reeves declared a State of Emergency existed in the state of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus within Mississippi and Jasper County constitutes a public emergency that has resulted in substantial injury or harm to life, health and property within Mississippi and Jasper County; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. there had been 944 positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the state of Mississippi, with 20 deaths;

WHEREAS, on April, 2020, there were no positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Jasper County; although the Board believes that cases probably exist and have not been confirmed;

WHEREAS, an emergency meeting was called for 10:00 o'clock a.m. on April 1, 2020, at the recommendation of the Board President to discuss action to prevent spread;

WHEREAS, a quorum was present at said Emergency Meeting;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors is concerned about the further spread of COVID-19 cases in Jasper County, Mississippi and has already declared a state of emergency by Order dated March, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Jasper County Board of Supervisors is vested with the obligation and authority to promote and protect the public's safety and social and economic welfare and cause the public to take this matter seriously; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority vested in the Jasper County Board of Supervisors by Miss. Code Ann. 33-15-17, the Board of Supervisors may enact various measures to protect the public's health, safety and welfare in the event of epidemics and related emergencies deemed a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the Jasper County community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-15-17 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED, THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, APPROVE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. 33-15-17, a State of Emergency be, and is hereby, declared within the confines of Jasper County, Mississippi due to the conditions of an epidemic.

**Section 2.** For as long as the Governor's Emergency Proclamation remains in effect and until further order of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, all restaurants doing business in the County shall limit all food service through the use of drive-thru, curbside pick-up or delivery methods, and the use by the public of interior or exterior common dining facilities is hereby prohibited.

**Section 3.** The Jasper County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages all churches, business and families to adhere to the CDC guidelines and Governor's recommendation of not more than 10 people together in groups in a single room. The object is to keep a minimum of six (6) feet between persons and;

**Section 4.** The President of the Board of Supervisors is authorized, in the interest of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Jasper County, and may order general curfews and may further limit individual gatherings, as conditions may require in the future during the declared state of emergency in an effort to stop and control the spread of COVID-19.

**Section 5.** Social distancing should be enforced throughout the County – stay at least 6 feet away from others to the extent possible.

**Section 6.** A county-wide curfew will be strictly enforced from 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. Persons should not be on the public street or in any public place unless it is for traveling to or from work or for medical personnel in the performance of their duties. First Responders and law enforcement are exempt from this curfew.

**Section 7.** Most places that have public assembly such as churches, places of entertainment, and other places where the public gathers from time to time have already adopted policies of closing or limiting the number of persons allowed inside at the same time. There should not be gatherings of more than 10 people at an event. None of the abovementioned places shall allow gatherings of more than 10 people for the month of April or until further Order of the Board.

**Section 8.** Bars, nightclubs, lounges, taverns shall close, except to the extent that such establishments may only provide take-out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services for food as allowed by law. Restaurants and private clubs shall close dine-in services, but may provide pick-up, curbside service, delivery, or drive-through services for food as provided in Proclamation 1463 as amended. There shall not be more than 10 employees and 10 customers inside abovementioned businesses at any one time. These establishments must close by 11:00 p.m. and remain closed until 5:00 a.m.

**Section 9.** Essential businesses are hereby defined as set forth by Governor Tate Reeves Executive Order number 1463.

The measures detailed in this Proclamation (other than those referring to places that are venues of public assembly) apply only to the specific businesses listed herein.

**Section 10.** That due to the State of Emergency and pursuant to Section 19-11-21 and Section 33-15-17, *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated*, all Department Heads of Jasper County are directed to promptly review and identify which employees perform essential duties to carry out the entity's core functions during the State of Emergency and those employees whose duties are not deemed essential during any period of time during the State of Emergency. And where feasible, as determined by the Department Heads, if core functions and duties could be performed by essential employees from home in order to minimize the interaction and risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 between employees.

**Section 11.** That due to the State of Emergency and pursuant to Section 19-11-21 and Section 33-15-17, *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated*, Department Heads, with prior approval of this Board of Supervisors, may grant their employees administrative leave with pay for any one or more of the following reasons as determined by the appointing authority:

a. The period(s) of time that the employee's department has closed in response to COVID-19.

b. The period(s) of time that the employee's supervisor has determined the employee's duties are deemed non-essential during any period of time during the State of Emergency.

c. The period(s) of time that the employee or a member of their immediate household is placed in quarantine or isolation as a result of being diagnosed with COVID-19.

d. Other reasons as determined by this Board in consultation with a health care professional that are necessary to prevent the risk of possible transmission of COVID-19 within the employee's workplace.

e. That all departments of Jasper County, Mississippi are authorized and directed to cooperate in recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Mississippi State Board of Health given in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency.

**Section 12.** That due to the State of Emergency and pursuant to Section 19-11-21 and Section 33-15-17, *Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated*, the following policies and practices are hereby adopted:

a. There will be restricted access to the Jasper County Courthouse. All personnel and customers will be subject to health screening, including temperature check. Only essential employees shall be present. All county employees, which are not working as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic shall continue to receive regular compensation, pursuant to recently passed legislation.

b. No events, meetings or gatherings involving more than ten (10) persons (or such other number as may be recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the Mississippi State Board of Health given in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency) shall take place at public buildings, facilities and places until further notice. This number ten (10) includes the total number of persons present, regardless of position, role, function, employment or title.

c. The Sheriff of Jasper County is authorized and directed to institute visitation policies for the Jasper County Jail so as to minimize and prevent the

spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, except visitation with prisoners by their attorney shall not be unreasonably restricted.

d. The Janitorial Staff should clean and sanitize offices more often until further notice.

e. Employees are encouraged to wash their hands often, practice social distancing, use hand sanitizer and clean their work stations more often until further notice.

f. Department Heads are encouraged to adjust high-risk employees so they don't interact with public.

g. Sick employees are encouraged to stay home.

h. Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F [38.0° C] or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick. A healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness are not required to validate their illness or to return to work, as healthcare provider offices and medical facilities maybe extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.

i. Department Heads are required to ensure that their employees are aware of these policies.

j. If necessary, employees shall be able to stay home to care for a sick family member. Department Heads should be aware that more employees may need to stay at home to care for sick children or other sick family members than is usual.

k. Employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to work or become sick during the day should be separated from other employees and be sent home immediately. Sick employees should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available).

l. Department Heads shall place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, and hand hygiene at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.

m. Department Heads shall provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.

n. Department Heads shall instruct employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs shall be provided in the workplace. Department Heads shall ensure that adequate supplies are maintained and place hand rubs in multiple locations or in conference rooms to encourage hand hygiene.

o. Department Heads are encouraged to visit the coughing and sneezing etiquette and clean hands section of the Mississippi State Board of Health webpage for more information.

p. Employees are encouraged to routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Department Heads are instructed to provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.

q. Traveling by employees is not advised or recommended until further notice unless reasonably necessary. Employees are advised that before traveling outside the County to take certain steps:

i. Check the CDC's Traveler's Health Notices for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel. Specific travel information for travelers going to and returning from China, and information for aircrew, can be found at on the CDC website.



- ii. Advise employees to check themselves for symptoms of acute respiratory illness before starting travel and notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.
  - iii. Ensure employees who become sick while traveling or on temporary assignment understand that they should notify their supervisor and should promptly call a healthcare provider for advice if needed.
  - iv. If outside the United States, sick employees should follow the County's policy for obtaining medical care or contact a healthcare provider or overseas medical assistance company to assist them with finding an appropriate healthcare provider in that country. A U.S. consular officer can help locate healthcare services. However, U.S. embassies, consulates, and military facilities do not have the legal authority, capability, and resources to evaluate or give medicines, vaccines, or medical care to private U.S. citizens overseas.
- r. Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
- s. If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, the Department Head should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed COVID-19 should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.
- t. Any future recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the Mississippi State Department of Health for responding to COVID-19 shall modify this resolution to the extent recommended without further action on the part of this Board of Supervisors

u. Signs at the entrances of all public buildings and workplaces shall be posted to be in words and figures as shown by Exhibit "A", as if fully copied at this point.

v. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to each Department Head. This resolution shall take effective immediately and remain effective until further notice.

w. This resolution shall be forwarded to the *The Jasper County News*, a newspaper having general circulation in Jasper County, Mississippi, as provided by statute.

**Section 13.** Violations of the Proclamation will be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to Section 33-15-17 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, with fine up \$1,000.00.

**Section 14.** This Emergency Proclamation shall be reviewed by the Jasper County Board of Supervisors on \_\_\_\_\_, at the recess Board Meeting of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors.

**THIS PROCLAMATION SHALL BE IN EFFECT BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. AND CONTINUE FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS.**

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ offered and moved for adoption of this Proclamation, which was seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ and the motion and foregoing Proclamation was received by all members of the Board of Supervisors, the President declared the motion carried and the Proclamation adopted, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.

Supervisor Eddie Helms	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Sandy Stephens	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Doug Rogers	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Randy Corley	voted: <u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Curtis Gray, President	voted: <u>Aye</u>

The motion and foregoing Proclamation having received a majority of the vote of the Board of Supervisors, the President declared the motion carried and the Proclamation adopted, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.

SO PROCLAIMED, this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.