

## **COUNTY OF ROSEAU PROCLAMATION AND DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the virus named “SARS-CoV-2,” is a new strain of coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person and which causes a disease named “coronavirus disease 2019,” commonly known as “COVID-19,” which is a respiratory disease that can result in serious injury or death; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the United States; on March 6, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the State of Minnesota; and as of March 19, 2020, there are 77 known cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 19, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the County of Roseau, however, the County of Roseau is preparing for the inevitable spread of COVID-19 to our region; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 18, 2020 the World Health Organization Situation Report confirmed a total of 191,127 cases of COVID-19 in over 135 countries, including 7,807 deaths; and as of March 19, 2020 a total of 77 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been identified by the World Health Organization as a pandemic, and the United States Centers for Disease Control has provided guidance for individuals, healthcare professionals, and businesses to slow the spread of COVID-19, which include cancelling or postponing in-person events that involve more than 10 people for eight weeks as of March 19, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Roseau personnel has been preparing for weeks, working diligently with local, state, and federal partners to maintain situational awareness and respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, local cases will trigger a more aggressive public health response and are predicted to impact residents of Roseau County and those who work in or travel through the County, including County employees; and the need for social distancing, school closings, and quarantine methods to stop the spread of COVID-19 is expected to cause significant challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of basic precautions of infection control and prevention, including staying home when ill and practicing respiratory and hand hygiene are necessary to slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19 and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality, and presents a severe danger to public health: and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Roseau advises all its residents to follow Minnesota Department of Health guidance. County residents should regularly check MDH's COVID-19 webpage: [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/) and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners called for and held an emergency board meeting on March 19, 2020 at the Roseau City Center to discuss the response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Roseau County Board of Commissioners and personnel find that this situation threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community and will cause a significant impact on the ability of public safety personnel to address any immediate dangers to the public as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Roseau County Board of Commissioners finds that traditional sources of financial aid, assistance and relief will not be able to compensate for the potential impact of COVID-19, and have determined that the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the County of Roseau, and additional resources will be needed from state and federal sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, CHAIRMAN ROGER FALK OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMS, DECLARES, REQUESTS, AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under the authority given by Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, declares that a local emergency exists within the County of Roseau, effective March 19, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and further proclaims that such emergency constitutes a declared emergency as provided by law.
2. Directs County Staff to review ordinance and regulatory requirements, operations, civil and legal proceedings, events, and resources to determine whether the foregoing should be adjusted or suspended, and to make recommendations regarding additional emergency regulations to support the employees and residents of the County of Roseau.
3. Directs all County departments and offices to operate and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of appropriate county personnel, including implementing new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure that public services are maintained.
4. Directs the appropriate County staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, the State of Minnesota, and the Federal government, as needed.
5. Declares, under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the Roseau County Board of Commissioners, Committee of the Whole, Operations, and other advisory commissions of the County of Roseau are not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and the peacetime emergency declared by Governor Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and hereby directs that **meetings shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, and hereby directs County Staff to take such action as may be necessary to enable such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means** pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021, **until such time as it is no longer impractical or imprudent** for said meetings to resume in-person meetings.
6. This emergency declaration shall continue for a period of three (3) days from its effective date of March 19, 2020, unless further extended by or with the consent of the Roseau County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, subd. 1.

7. Orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity.

THAT FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION BY CHAIRMAN ROGER FALK OF THE ROSEAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVED TO EXTEND THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS FOLLOWS:

8. That pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, subd 1. the Roseau County Board of Commissioners hereby consent that the three (3) day period for the emergency declaration shall be extended until such time that a declaration or resolution is given by the County of Roseau terminating said emergency declaration.

9. That this resolution extending the emergency declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the County Coordinator.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2020