

**TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 10, 2020, and determined that immediate public action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth and/or property which may otherwise result from the above described emergency; 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 announced a National Declaration of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premise consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020 President Trump limited all public gatherings not to exceed ten people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Bridgewater and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the Town of West Bridgewater; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Bridgewater 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 West Bridgewater; 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 West Bridgewater; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Bridgewater and the West Bridgewater Board of Health recommend that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of West Bridgewater.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health of the Town of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts hereby declare that as of March 18, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of West Bridgewater, this declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

Date: March 18, 2020

**Town of West Bridgewater**

**Board of Selectmen**

  
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Eldon F. Moreira, Chairman

  
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Denise R. Reyes, Vice Chairman

  
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Anthony J. Kinahan, Clerk