

Local Emergency Order No. 1-2

WHEREAS, beginning in late 2019, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2, emerged causing a novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, which has now become a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to my authority under the Gwinnett County Emergency Management Ordinance as Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, I signed a Declaration of Local Emergency activating certain emergency powers in order to allow the County to quickly and appropriately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America – 15 Days to Slow the Spread; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines contain recommendations on how to protect oneself from the COVID-19 pandemic, including recommendations such as avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people for fifteen (15) days; and

WHEREAS, those guidelines include a recommendation that communities with evidence of community transmission consider closing restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate; and

WHEREAS, the CDC indicates that there is evidence of widespread community transmission in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Gwinnett County strongly encouraged all restaurants, fitness centers, entertainment venues, and similar establishments to take voluntary measures such as closing or modifying operations to help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 03.23.20.01, which requires the Department of Public Health to order that certain specific higher risk populations to shelter in place for fourteen (14) days; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 03.23.20.01 further orders that no business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or be seated within six (6) feet of any other person; and

WHEREAS, the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Gwinnett County and in the State of Georgia continue to rise and have more than doubled since my Declaration of Local Emergency in Gwinnett County on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Gwinnett County's Emergency Management Ordinance and pursuant to my March 16 Declaration of Local Emergency, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners has the ability to exercise such powers as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, I believe that it is necessary to temporarily close certain establishments, where the public gathers and where social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Gwinnett County in order to help protect the health and safety of the residents and businesses of Gwinnett County; and

WHEREAS, I further believe that it is necessary to require social distancing measures where businesses, corporations, non-profit entities, and other organizations continue to operate to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Gwinnett County;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- (1) Gyms, fitness centers, fitness studios, theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, arcades, and other similar establishments within unincorporated Gwinnett County be temporarily closed.
- (2) Restaurants, food courts, brewpubs, breweries, and other eating establishments within unincorporated Gwinnett County cease offering dine-in and/or outdoor/patio service. Such establishments may continue to prepare and offer food to customers through delivery, takeout, and/or drive-thru service. Any establishment that is

licensed for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be authorized to sell unopened bottles or new, sealed growlers of beer or unopened bottles of wine curbside or to takeout customers only during the times specified by alcoholic beverage license and pertinent Code sections. The County makes no representations as to the effect of these types of sales on an establishment's state liquor license.

- (3) Cafeterias or on-site dining services in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other similar facilities within unincorporated Gwinnett County following previously issued state and federal public health guidelines shall not be subject to closure requirements of this Order.
- (4) All employers and business which remain open for use by the public must take the necessary steps to restrict in person contact and maintain a distance of 6 feet between individuals while in the establishment.
- (5) The Governor's Executive Order No. 03.23.20.01 is hereby incorporated by reference herein, such that:
 - a. All persons ordered by the Department of Public Health to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place within their homes or place of residence shall comply with such executive order or administrative order. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, the following populations are specifically included:
 - i. Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
 - ii. Those persons who have chronic lung disease;
 - iii. Those persons who are currently undergoing cancer treatment; and
 - iv. Those persons included in any Department of Public Health Administrative Order.
 - b. All businesses which possess a license to operate as or otherwise meet the definition of "bar" as defined in Official Code of Georgia Section 3-1-2(2.1) shall cease operation.
 - c. No business, establishment, corporation, non-profit, corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within six (6) feet of any other person.

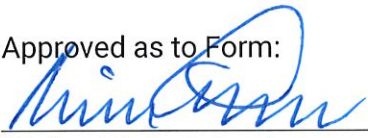
- (6) The County Administrator shall be authorized to utilize personnel and resources, including but not limited to the Gwinnett County Police Department, to support compliance with and to assist in the enforcement of this Order.
- (7) The provisions of this Order shall be effective beginning March 25, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and shall expire on April 6, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

This 25th day of March 2020.


Charlotte J. Nash, Chairman
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners


Diane Kemp, County Clerk
County Clerk



Approved as to Form:

Michael P. Ludwiczak
County Attorney