2020 MAR -9 PM 4:47
SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLIC INFORMATION
CENTER

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

20-02

March 9, 2020

DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020 the Rhode Island Department of Health established an Incident Command System response to COVID-19;

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, the number of countries that are experiencing community transmission of COVID-19 continues to grow;

WHEREAS, community transmission in the United States has occurred in some states and is an immediate public health threat to the elderly and those with underlying health conditions;

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been documented in the State of Rhode Island;

WHEREAS, the State has worked tirelessly to contain the spread of COVID-19 within its borders;

WHEREAS, the State needs to take additional measures to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws § 30-15-9(e)(1) permits the Governor to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GINA M. RAIMONDO, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, pursuant to Article IX of the Rhode Island Constitution and the Rhode Island General Laws, including, but not limited to, Title 30, Chapter 15, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A state of emergency is declared for the State of Rhode Island due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19 and the state disaster emergency plan is activated.

2. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) is directed to stand up the state emergency operations center and to activate all other necessary state emergency response plans, policies, compacts and agreements, to create and establish mobile support units, and to activate and deploy disaster response teams and disaster response workers to perform disaster response services.

3. The Adjutant General is authorized to order Rhode Island National Guard members to state active duty, if necessary, to assist in the response to this event.

4. All state departments, agencies or quasi-state agencies and boards and commissions performing executive functions shall cooperate fully with RIEMA in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to affected cities and towns should be coordinated by and through RIEMA.

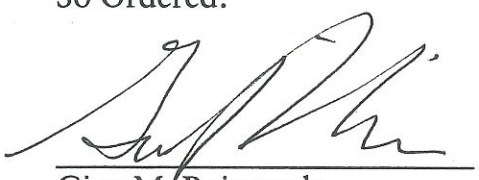
5. All state offices and operations shall remain open until further notice and continue to operate in their ordinary course of business.

6. As of the date of this order, no person, firm or corporation shall increase the price of personal protective equipment, including masks and gloves, hand sanitizer, soap, bleach or other household disinfectant it sells or offers for sale at retail. Pursuant to section 6-13-21 of the Rhode Island General Laws, it shall be an unfair sales practice for individuals or retailers to participate in price gouging for any other essential commodity during the pendency of this emergency.

7. Pursuant to the emergency powers granted by the Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or federal law, I shall from time to time issue additional recommendations, directions and orders as circumstances require, either written or verbal.

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until April 8, 2020, unless renewed, modified or terminated by subsequent Executive Order.

So Ordered:



Gina M. Raimondo
Governor