EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-05

PROHIBITING LARGE GATHERINGS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK IN OREGON

On March 8, 2020, I declared an emergency under ORS 401.165 *et seq.* due to the public health threat posed by the novel infectious coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 10, 2020, based on recommendations from the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Human Services imposed restrictions and protective measures to limit visitors to long term care facilities to only essential personnel. The Oregon Health Authority is taking similar measures at the Oregon State Hospital and in other behavioral health settings.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 is a global pandemic.

As of today, there are 21 presumptive or confirmed coronavirus cases in Oregon, and state and local public health officials have advised that the virus is circulating in the community and that they expect the number of cases to increase.

COVID-19 spreads person-to-person through coughing and sneezing, close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, or touching an object or surface with the virus on it, and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. The symptoms are fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

Consistent with the mitigation strategies for communities recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with regard to COVID-19, in order to slow the spread of the disease, and to protect the Oregonians who are at highest risk for contracting the disease, I find that immediate implementation of social distancing and community mitigation measures are necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to ORS 433.441(3)(a) and (d), ORS 401.175(1), and ORS 401.188(2), I am prohibiting large social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings of 250 people or more, statewide.

2. Gatherings subject to Paragraph 1 of this Executive Order include, but are not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, and sporting events, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, and any similar events or activities, if a distance of at least three (3) feet between individuals cannot be maintained.

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3. Paragraph 1 of this Executive Order does not apply to school attendance, places of employment, grocery stores, or retail stores.

4. I delegate authority to the Oregon Health Authority and the Public Health Director to provide guidance regarding the types and categories of gatherings subject to this Executive Order.

5. Beginning on March 16, 2020, any person found to be in violation of this order is subject to the penalties described in ORS 401.990.

This Executive Order is in effect immediately and remains in effect until April 8, 2020, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Governor.

Done at Portland, Oregon this 12th day of March, 2020.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Bev Clarno
SECRETARY OF STATE

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