ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2020-215

March 6, 2020

STATE OF EMERGENCY

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

WHEREAS, there are numerous confirmed lab cases of COVID-19 throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease than can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high", and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization currently indicates there are 98,192 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, and the CDC currently indicates that 164 of those cases are in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the planning and preparedness of all state and local agencies for a COVID-19 public health emergency in the Commonwealth is a concern to all Kentuckians; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management has special personnel and equipment resources to assist the state and local authorities in the protection of life, public health and safety, to promote the public welfare, to prevent undue loss and suffering, and to mitigate the effects of such an event; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Public Health has specially trained personnel and resources to assist the state and local authorities in the protection of life, public health and safety, through coordinating a response to this emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is both appropriate and desirable to combine the resources of the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management and the Kentucky Department of Public Health in joint operations with selected federal, state and local agencies to attain the maximum effective response to the circumstances described herein;

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Chapter 39A of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, declare that a State of Emergency exists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and do hereby order and direct the issuance of appropriate state active duty orders for the necessary officers, troops, personnel, equipment, including the resources of the Kentucky National Guard and other logistical support necessary for an immediate response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency in the Commonwealth. I further order and direct as follows:

1. The Division of Emergency Management within the Department of Military Affairs and the Kentucky Department of Public Health shall coordinate the response and relief activities of all state agencies and private relief organizations in response to the COVID-19 emergency described herein.

2. The Division of Emergency Management within the Department of Military Affairs shall execute the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan and, from the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center, shall coordinate the relief and response activities of all state agencies and private relief organizations in response to this emergency.

3. The Adjutant General is authorized to issue active duty orders for the mobilization of such National Guard personnel and equipment as he may determine to protect life and safety, to continue essential public services, and to prevent undue loss and suffering.

4. The Division of Emergency Management is authorized to request assistance, federal, state, local, private sector, volunteer, and donated resources as may be available to minimize human suffering and to restore essential services to the general population and to assist state and local governments and individuals impacted by this emergency.

5. The Finance and Administration Cabinet is directed to provide assistance with incident resource management, procurements, and contracting and to fund the urgent operational and/or response of the Division of Emergency Management and the unbudgeted expenditures and obligations of other state agencies that are incurred in response and recovery from this emergency incident and in executing the provisions of this Executive Order.

6. The Kentucky Department of Public Health and all other state agencies shall provide sufficient personnel required for the staffing of the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center or other command, control, and coordination points as may be designated by the Division of Emergency Management's Director and shall provide such personnel, vehicles, equipment, and other resources needed to protect life and property and to ensure continuation, restoration, and recovery of essential public services.

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7. The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security ("KOHS") shall provide information to individuals and private organizations, including volunteer and religious organizations, regarding how they can best prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 emergency described herein and whom to contact to volunteer help or services. Further, the KOHS shall specifically identify and encourage private organizations to commit to provide food, shelter, personnel, equipment, materials, consultation, and advice, or other services needed to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Additionally, the KOHS shall coordinate its efforts with the federal Department of Homeland Security, as necessary, and administer the Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center to facilitate information sharing about COVID-19 among public safety and public service agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private sector.

This order is effective March 6, 2020.

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE 3/6/2020

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY