



COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA
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COBB COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Michael H. Boyce
Chairman

ORDER SUPPLEMENTING & EXTENDING DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN COBB COUNTY

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency on Friday March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency in Georgia on March 14, 2020, which was affirmed by the General Assembly on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners declared a Local Emergency on March 24, 2020, which will terminate on April 15, 2020, unless extended or renewed by the Chairman; and

WHEREAS, as of April 1, 2020, the World Health Organization reported 827,419 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 40,777 deaths, in 205 countries, areas or territories; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has become the country with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world; and

WHEREAS, laboratory testing has confirmed in excess of 290 cases of COVID-19 in Cobb County to date, including 15 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, provides that, once a declaration of emergency is issued by the chairman of the board of commissioners, the declaration of emergency shall continue until the chairman finds that emergency conditions no longer exist;

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Chairman, with advice from the Cobb & Douglas Board of Health (CDBH) and Cobb Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), public health emergency conditions continue to exist in unincorporated Cobb County requiring supplemental corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Cobb County; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have cautioned that if COVID-19 continues to spread in Cobb County and the rest of Georgia at the rate it has been spreading since March 24, 2020, the need for hospitalization and life-saving treatment will exceed the number of available hospital beds and critical medical supplies and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the most critical tool for combating the COVID-19 pandemic is to practice “social distancing” by minimizing contact between people residing in different households as much as possible, and

WHEREAS, the County’s District Health Director, Dr. Janet Memark, has advised the Chairman that she agrees that this Order Supplementing & Extending the Declaration of Emergency is necessary to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of Cobb County; and

WHEREAS, the Cobb & Douglas Board of Health is authorized to mandate the closure of any business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization not in compliance with this Declaration of Emergency for a period not to extend beyond the term of this Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Official Code of Cobb County, Georgia, provides that the law enforcement authorities of the county shall enforce the orders, rules and regulations implemented by the chairman or local governing authority during a declared emergency, Cobb County Code, Sec. 34-3;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that the local state of emergency in Cobb County is extended through and including **April 24, 2020**, and is supplemented by the provisions contained herein.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1.

Consistent with Paragraph (3)(g), and Paragraph (4)(ee) of the Declaration of Emergency, issued March 24, 2020, and in accordance with the recommendations of CDBH, the following non-essential businesses are closed, regardless of their location (e.g., at home services):

- a. Gyms, fitness and recreation centers
- b. Hair salons
- c. Barber shops
- d. Nail salons
- e. Waxing salons
- f. Tanning salons
- g. Spas
- h. Tattoo parlors
- i. Massage-therapy establishments and massage services
- j. All other nonessential businesses in which person-to-person contact occurs and persons are unable to maintain a distance of 6 feet between one another at all times.

2.

Consistent with Paragraph (3)(c) of the Declaration of Emergency, which states “[a]ll individuals and families are required to shelter in place...,” residents are instructed to stay home except for essential activities, which include buying food and taking care of the health and safety of anyone in their household, including pets. Shelter in place permits people to: leave for work at businesses permitted to operate during the Declaration of Emergency; go outside for exercise purposes so long as 6 feet distance is maintained and no more than 10 people are gathered; and visit the home of immediate family members to assist in childcare or elderly care.

3.

For clarification, the “Essential Business” of “Healthcare operations” contained in Paragraph (4)(a) of the Declaration of Emergency includes hospitals, clinics, doctors, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, vision services, dermatology services, research and laboratory operations, and holistic and alternative healthcare practitioners.

4.

In accordance with the recommendations of CDBH, and consistent with the closing of all County pools and recreational facilities, private community pools should postpone opening during the duration of the Declaration of Emergency.

5.

Paragraph (3), section (d), of the Declaration of Emergency, issued March 24, 2020, is null and void.

6.

For purposes of this Order, “Grocery Store” is defined as a store that whose primary commodity for sale and purchase is food. “Essential Retail Store” is defined as retail stores that sell products that support repair or construction work for businesses and homes, and businesses that sell products to support persons working from home, including computers, audio, electronics, IT and telecommunications equipment.

7.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are required to implement the following measures to keep people at least six feet apart: place signs outside the store reminding people to be at least six feet apart, including when in line; and place tape or other markings at least six feet apart in customer line areas inside the store and on sidewalks at public entrances with signs directing customers to use the markings to maintain distance.

8.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are strongly encouraged to develop a Social Distancing Protocol, to post a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol at each public entrance of their facility, and to provide a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol to all employees.

9.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are strongly encouraged to post signage at each public entrance of their facility to inform all employees and customers that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have a cough or fever; maintain a minimum of six-feet between one another; sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if not available, into one's elbow; and not shake hands or engage in any other unnecessary physical contact.

10.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are strongly encouraged to announce social distancing expectations through their PA system periodically throughout the day.

11.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are strongly encouraged to implement the following measures to protect employee health: permit all employees who can carry out their work duties from home to do so; direct all employees not to come to work if they are sick; conduct symptom checks (including temperature readings) before employees may enter the work space; separate all desks of individual work stations by at least six feet, if possible; frequently disinfect all break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas; provide disinfectant and related supplies throughout employee areas; and make hand sanitizer and soap/water effective against COVID-19 available to employees at various locations; and take all other measures deemed useful in protecting employee health.

12.

Grocery Stores are strongly encouraged to implement the following measures to prevent unnecessary contact: install plexiglass at registers; encourage customers to use self-checkout lanes where possible to reduce the interaction between employees and consumers; prevent people from self-serving any items that are food-related (lids for cups and food-bar type items should be provided by staff; not to customers to grab; bulk-item food bins should not be available for customer self-service use); discontinue product sampling; prohibit customers from bringing their own bags, mugs or other reusable items from home; provide for contactless payment systems or, if not feasible, sanitize payment systems regularly; consider controlling the flow of shoppers

through the store by use of one-way aisles so shoppers reduce the frequency of shoppers crossing paths; and take all other measures deemed useful in preventing unnecessary contact.

13.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are strongly encouraged to implement the following measures to increase sanitization: make available near shopping carts and shopping baskets disinfecting wipes that are effective against COVID-19; assign employees to disinfect carts and baskets regularly; regularly clean the conveyor belt, as well as the surrounding area, with disinfectant and sanitizing wipes between shoppers checking out; make available hand sanitizer, soap and water, or effective disinfectant to the public at or near the entrance of the facility, at checkout counters, and anywhere else inside the store or immediately outside where people have direct interactions; disinfect all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use; disinfect all high-contact surfaces frequently; and take all other measures deemed useful in increasing sanitization.

14.

Grocery and Essential Retail Stores are encouraged to expand remote shopping options if available (click-and-collect, delivery, pick-up, shop-by-phone).

15.

This Order Supplementing and Extending Declaration of Emergency in Cobb County is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity by any party against Cobb County, its officials, employees, or agents. County employees will continue to be provided separate detailed written guidance on pay and reporting to work during this period.

ENTERED at 3:45 p.m. on April, 2020.

COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

(COUNTY SEAL)



Michael H. Boyce, CHAIRMAN
Cobb County Board of Commissioners



ATTEST:



Pamela L. Mabry, COUNTY CLERK
Cobb County Board of Commissioners