

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF LEE COUNTY, GEORGIA RELATED TO EMERGENCY RESPONSES  
TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

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WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Coronavirus (now designated "COVID-19") as a pandemic and encourages all countries to take urgent and aggressive action to reduce or stop the rapid spread of such virus, and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Health Emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp of the State of Georgia declared a Public Health State of Emergency regarding COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused or contributed to numerous deaths in Dougherty County and numerous persons having been infected with the virus, some of which appears to have been caused by people attending public gatherings where people either carrying the virus or already infected by the virus were in attendance; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals have been tested for COVID-19 in the Dougherty County/Lee County area and are awaiting the results of those tests, and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have determined COVID-19 is easily transmitted from person to person, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia has ordered all K-12 schools to close at least through the end of March, 2020, and

WHEREAS, Lee County has numerous recreational facilities, churches, and other common gathering places for Lee County citizens and visitors to Lee County; and

WHEREAS, health experts have encouraged elderly citizens to remain in their residences, businesses to allow employees to work remotely, when possible, and citizens to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from others when possible and to avoid gatherings of more than ten (10) persons, and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have encouraged Lee County to take aggressive steps to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and

WHEREAS, Lee County has an Emergency Management Ordinance codified in Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of State-wide emergency by the Governor has activated the Local Emergency Operations Plan pursuant to Section 26-2(a)(4) of the Emergency Management Ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Emergency Management Agency Director has requested the Lee County Board of Commissioners take action to comply with recommendations from Federal and State officials regarding limitations of meetings where groups of people may congregate and spread the virus from person to person, and

WHEREAS, it is deemed appropriate by both the Board of Commissioners of Lee County and the Lee County Emergency Management Director to take action deemed necessary or appropriate to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19, control the risk to persons regarding COVID-19, promote health and to take additional health measures that prevent or reduce the likelihood of the spread of the virus, and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the Lee County Emergency Management Director have determined that it is appropriate to issue this Executive Order under authority of Chapter 26 of the Lee County Code of Ordinances relating to Emergency Management.

NOW THEREFORE, it is ordered under the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County relating to Emergency Management, and the authority granted to the Board of Commissioners of Lee County and the Lee County Emergency Management Director as follows

1 That a Local State of Disaster and Public Health Emergency is hereby declared by the Lee County Board of Commissioners and the Lee County Emergency Management Director

2 That the Public Health Emergency shall commence effective at 3 00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020, and shall continue for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days, unless revoked or continued or renewed by further Executive Order

3 During the course of the Public Health Emergency, the following shall be applicable.

(A) Public or private gatherings of more than ten (10) persons are prohibited anywhere in Lee County for the duration of this Executive Order For the purposes of this Order, a “gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, which brings together or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent, arena, event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, church, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space, to include birthday parties, family reunions,

baby showers, weddings, and funerals. For purposes of this Executive Order, a “gathering” shall not include the following:

- (i) Office space, public or private schools, child-care facilities, residential buildings, or any type of temporary shelter or housing;
- (ii) Hospitals and medical facilities, and
- (iii) Grocery stores, shopping centers or malls, other retail establishments.

(B) No worship services shall be held in Lee County if attended by more than ten (10) persons, during the term of this Order. This directive includes church services, funerals, church suppers, Wednesday night services, Bible study, Sunday school, choir practice, Brotherhood meetings, Deacons meetings, and revivals, as well as any and all other such meetings related to church services. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit churches from livestreaming services or holding services remotely as long as such livestreaming or remote services do not result in more than ten (10) persons being present.

(C) Indoor recreational facilities, including gyms, physical fitness centers, and dance studios shall be closed for the term of this Executive Order except where not more than ten (10) persons are present at any one time and each of such persons present has a prior appointment for the use of such facilities at such time.

(D) Bowling alleys, pool halls, skating rinks, playgrounds, and movie theaters shall be closed for the term of this Executive Order.

4 Any violation of this Executive Order shall be a misdemeanor, punishment pursuant to Section 1-12 of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County. The Sheriff of Lee County or his lawful deputies, shall be authorized to enforce this Order.

5 This Executive Order is authorized pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(a) and pursuant to Chapter 26-1, et seq. of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County and shall be effective commencing at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020, and shall continue for such term as is established in the Executive Order, subject to the Executive Order being continued or further renewed by subsequent Executive Order.

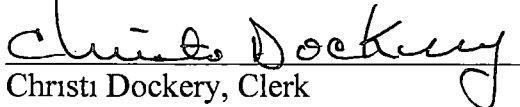
6 This Executive Order was entered with due consideration with the orders, rules, and regulations, actions, recommendations and requests of Federal and State authorities relevant thereto and to the extent permitted by law and shall be consistent with such orders, rules, and regulations, actions, recommendations and requests, all in accord with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28(c).

SO ORDERED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 as of 3:00 o'clock p.m.

**Board of Commissioners  
of Lee County, Georgia**

By: 

Billy Mathis, Chairman

Attest: 

Christi Dockery, Clerk



Cole Williams, Director

Lee County Emergency Management