

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

COLUMBIA COUNTY DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY OVER CORONAVIRUS

On March 13, 2020 The Board of Commissioners signed Resolution 25-2020 "In the Matter of Declaring a Local State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to make certain we are able to swiftly deploy the personnel and resources necessary to address, the possible occurrence of coronavirus in Columbia County.

This state of emergency gives Columbia County Oregon Health Authority and Office of Emergency Management all resources at the state's disposal to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The state of emergency will remain in effect until August 13, 2020

Columbia County has declared a state of emergency under ORS 401.309 that authorizes the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County to declare that a state of emergency exists in Columbia County and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out any activity to prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from an emergency. This emergency declaration does not indicate that the public is at any greater risk. The declaration is meant to give our county public health staff the flexibility and support it needs to quickly purchase supplies, organize our response over the weeks ahead and seek potential state and federal resources as they become available.

The Board has determined that a state of emergency exists in Columbia County due to the following conditions; COVID-19 is a highly contagious and novel Coronavirus for which there is no vaccine, and the public is at risk for contracting the disease. We want to ensure the safety and protection of our most vulnerable population.

Columbia County Board of Commissioners may take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency, including but not limited to, requesting assistance and potential reimbursements from the State of Oregon and the appropriate federal agencies.

Everyone can help reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as the flu and COVID-19 by doing the following:

- Washing hands often for 20-30 seconds with warm water and soap.
- Coughing or sneezing into your sleeve or a tissue, not into your bare hands.
- Staying home if sick.
- Keeping your immune system strong by eating a healthy diet, getting enough sleep and regular exercise and by taking care of underlying health conditions.

There are also basic steps households should take to prepare for any unexpected event, such as:

- Establishing a child care plan in the event your kids need to stay home from school.
- Making sure your household has the necessary food, drinks, medications and pet supplies if members of your household need to stay home
- Limit your contact with other people for a couple of weeks.
- Reach out to your neighbors, especially those who might need extra help, such as older adults or people living alone, to ensure they have access to medicines and other supplies.

For updated Coronavirus information please call 211 or visit the Oregon Health Authority's web page.

For more information on Columbia County's Declaration please visit www.columbiacountyor.gov

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Declaring a Local State of
Emergency Due to COVID-19
(Coronavirus)

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2020

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County (hereinafter, the "Board") to declare that a state of emergency exists in Columbia County and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out any activity to prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that a state of emergency exists in Columbia County due to the following conditions:

- COVID-19 is a highly contagious and novel Coronavirus for which there is no vaccine, and the public is at risk for contracting the disease;
- Oregon announced its first presumptive case of COVID-19 on February 28, 2020;

WHEREAS, the following disruption of important services, damage to life, or damage to property can be expected from the above conditions:

- COVID-19 requires extensive staff time to investigate and monitor cases in order to prevent outbreak and keep the public safe;
- County resources are needed to respond to this threat. Resources related to contact tracing, disease investigation and prevention, continuity of operations, public information, and funding are expected to be exhausted;

WHEREAS, a preliminary assessment of disruption to services, property damage or loss, injuries and deaths is set forth above; and

WHEREAS, because the extent of damages and assistance needed may be beyond the capabilities of the County to provide, the Board has identified the need for the following additional resources from the State:

- Assistance with public messaging and outreach, disease investigation, and assistance with implementation of the most appropriate public health measures to prevent cases and control local outbreaks;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES AND DECLARES that, effective March 13, 2020, at 10 a.m. a state of local emergency exists throughout Columbia County, as defined by ORS 401.025(1), due to the presence of COVID-19 in Columbia County, Oregon, and damages sustained and costs incurred as a result thereof.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that upon declaration of a state of emergency, the Board of Commissioners shall be authorized to take such actions and issue such orders as are determined to be necessary to protect the public and property and to efficiently conduct activities that minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency, and further, that the County Department of Emergency Management is empowered to carry out the appropriate function and duties during times of emergency and shall implement the Columbia County Emergency Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbia County Board of Commissioners may take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from this emergency, including but not limited to, requesting assistance and potential reimbursements from the State of Oregon and the appropriate federal agencies.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that emergency procurements of goods and services are authorized pursuant to ORS 279B.080, ORS 279C.335(6), ORS 279.380(4), the Columbia County Personal Services Contracting Rules, Section X.B, and the Columbia County Public Contracting Rules, Section F.6.d.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration of emergency shall expire on August 13, 2020.

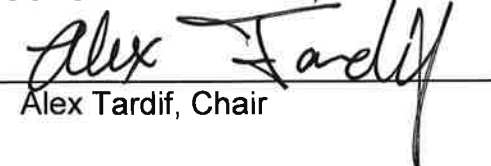
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

DATED this 13th day of March, 2020.

Approved as to form

By: 
Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Alex Tardif, Chair