

**RESOLUTION 2020-5**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
AS A RESULT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19),  
LEMHI COUNTY, STATE OF IDAHO**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, is a respiratory disease 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, which can result in serious illness or death thereby threatening widespread and/or severe damage to life or property thereby creating an "emergency" as defined by Idaho Code§ 46-1002; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United State 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**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern"; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for the country in response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases within the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Brad Little entered a Proclamation and declared a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency in the State of Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho Health District issued recommendations for mass gatherings and public events in order to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Supreme Court of the State of Idaho issued an Order on March 13, 2020 to protect the health and safety of court employees, elected officials, and the public, and under Article V, Section 2 of the Constitution and the inherent powers of the Supreme Court, to issue guidelines to be implemented from Monday, March 16, 2020 to Friday, April 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho Health Districts provide guidance for mass gatherings and public events and recommended that organizers postpone or cancel mass gatherings and public events in any of the following situations:

- The event will draw audiences or participants from communities, states or countries with confirmed community spread of COVID-19 disease;
- The event will consist of 50 people or more (which has since been modified and current recommendation is to postpone or cancel gatherings of more than ten people or more).
- The event's primary audience includes or may expose high-risk populations, including adults over the age of 60 years and people with underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes, regardless of the number of attendees.

**WHEREAS**, a local disaster emergency may be declared by the Board of County Commissioners within a political subdivision, pursuant to Idaho Code § 46-1011 and other relevant sections of Idaho Code; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Idaho Code, the effect of such declaration is to activate the recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder; and

**WHEREAS**, the County may pass all ordinances and make all regulations necessary to preserve the public health; prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the County;

**WHEREAS**, the imminent threat of public health emergency is expected to effect the County's ability to protect, maintain, and deliver critical services to its citizens despite the best efforts of the County, District 7 Health, and other governmental entities within the Political Subdivision, and the Special Districts serving the citizens of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Lemhi County desires to take action in order to be proactive and help reduce the spread of this virus and encourages its community members and community businesses to do their part to prevent and limit the spreading of this virus;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Lemhi Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim and declare a local disaster emergency in the County of Lemhi, State of Idaho, with specific provisions as follows:

1. A disaster emergency is imminent within Lemhi County, resulting from the occurrence and imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the effects of COVID-19.

2. Such disaster may require state assistance to supplement local efforts to provide for public safety and the protection of property and to avert and lessen the threat and impact of the disaster.
3. The County of Lemhi hereby requests that the Governor of the State of Idaho, together with other appropriate state officials, make such declarations, and provide assistance within the County of Lemhi as is required and allowed by law.
4. The County of Lemhi directs all County Departments and Boards take immediate action with reasonably necessary steps to prevent and limit the spreading of COVID-19.
5. The County of Lemhi recommends the Public follow the all recommendations of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and that of District 7 Health while conducting activities within the County of Lemhi.
6. The County of Lemhi hereby cancels and/or postpones mass gatherings and public events scheduled to occur on County property, including, but not limited to, the scheduled use of the Lemhi County Fairgrounds for the Salmon Select Horse Sale March 30, 2020, through April 5, 2020.

**AND THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this Resolution shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated by the Board of Lemhi County Commissioners.

Adopted by the sole authority vested under Idaho Code § 46-1011, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

COUNTY OF LEMHI

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Ken Miner, Chairman

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Richard Snyder, Commissioner

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Brett Barsalou, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Brenda Armstrong, County Clerk