

BOROUGH OF BRIDGEPORT

PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a “public health emergency of international concern”;

WHEREAS, on March 8th, 2020, Montgomery County declared a state of emergency due to the identification of affected citizens;

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf ordered the closure of all Montgomery County, schools, college and universities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf ordered the closure and cessation of operation of all non-essential businesses, services, and operations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Governor Wolf defined **non-essential businesses** as, but not limited to:

community and recreation centers; gyms, including yoga, barre and spin facilities; hair salons, nail salons and spas; casinos; concert venues; theaters; bars; sporting event venues and golf courses; retail facilities, including shopping malls and except for pharmacy or other health care facilities within retail operations. Businesses that offer carry-out, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage service may continue to do so but eating and drinking inside restaurants and bars is temporarily prohibited. These businesses offering carry-out, delivery, and drive-through food and beverage should employ social distancing best practices and be aware of the Federal Government’s guidance to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

Governor Wolf defined **essential businesses** as, but not limited to:

food processing, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, feed mills, construction, trash collection, grocery and household goods (including convenience stores), home repair/hardware and auto repair, pharmacy and other medical facilities, biomedical and healthcare, post offices and shipping outlets, insurance, banks, gas stations, laundromats, veterinary clinics and pet stores, warehousing, storage, and distribution, public transportation, and hotel and commercial lodging.

While essential businesses may remain open, the Governor Wolf continues to encourage them to employ social distancing practices and encourages Pennsylvanians to be thoughtful in their visits.

Other businesses, including but not limited to legal services, business and management consulting, professional services, and insurance services are encouraged to have employees work remotely or telecommute. If not possible, those businesses should employ social distancing best practices and be aware of the Federal Government’s guidance to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

WHEREAS, as of March 23, 2020, Governor Wolf issued a “shelter in place” order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and an order for all schools within the Commonwealth to be closed through April 6, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of March 23, 2020, there are 33,404 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 400 deaths resulting from infection in the United States, impacting 54 of its jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, as of March 23, 2020, there are 644 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 124 of which are in Montgomery County, the home county of Bridgeport Borough, and 6 deaths statewide;

WHEREAS, a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 can cause severe symptoms including serious respiratory disfunction and in some cases, loss of life. COVID -19 is particularly threatening to older populations and those with pre-existing conditions;

WHEREAS, Section 10A06 of the Pennsylvania Borough Code grants to a Borough Mayor the power and authority to issue a proclamation declaring a state of emergency within a Borough;


WHEREAS, the Mayor of Bridgeport Borough concludes that Emergency Management measures are required to reduce the severity of the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic upon the Borough of Bridgeport in that it:

- A. Seriously affects and threatens the health, safety, and welfare of all Borough citizens and precludes the operation or use of essential public facilities and services;
- B. Is of such a magnitude and severity as to requiring state and federal supplementation of regional, county and municipal resources to alleviate the damage, burdens or hardships of the public; and
- C. Requires all Borough citizens and businesses to comply with and adhere to Governor Wolf's March 16, 2020 and March 23, 2020 directives.

NOW THEREFORE, we authorize officials of Bridgeport Borough to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency as may be required, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, however, mandatory constitutional requirements are excepted.

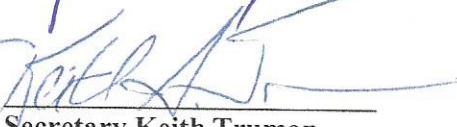
This declaration shall take effect immediately and be in effect for a period of 30 days. On the 30th day, the Borough will reassess the need for this order to be further extended.

Attest:



Mayor Mark Barbee

Dated: 3/25/2020



Secretary Keith Truman

Dated: 3/25/2020