

La Paz County Board of Supervisors

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EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-04

Declaration of Local Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, A.R.S. §26-311 authorizes the Board of Supervisors of La Paz County, Arizona or its designee to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County of La Paz is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December of 2019, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers this virus to be a significant public health threat that has, and continues to, spread globally; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 illness a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the La Paz County Health Department Emergency Operations Center was opened in reference to COVID-19 and with this, a Joint Information Center was established for public information coordination related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County continues to plan and prepare for event and facility closures, modified staffing plans, work-from-home programs and enhanced communications to employees to ensure effective Continuity of Operations of County Government through the activation of the County Continuity of Operations Plans; and

WHEREAS, prudence requires that precautionary measures be taken proactively due to the potential widespread nature of COVID-19 within La Paz County, and its threat to public health, safety, and welfare as referenced in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the above facts give credence to the conditions of extreme peril and public health emergency; and the declaration of a county emergency will enable the County of La Paz to provide emergency resources, request additional resources and potentially receive mutual aid from other political sub-divisions and entities.

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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED, that a local emergency now exists in La Paz County.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during this existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by State Law, by Ordinances and Resolutions of La Paz County. Citizens are urged to cooperate with this emergency declaration and to every degree possible, abide by the safety announcements, advisories and restrictions established by the La Paz County Health Emergency Operations Center and to cooperate with the community's public safety agencies and emergency services personnel.

County facilities will remain open for the time being, but various programs, events and activities can be suspended as may become necessary. Further details regarding suspended programs, events and activities will be forthcoming.

Closures of County facilities MAY occur as needed in the future and the County will monitor those needs on an ongoing basis.

PURSUANT to A.R.S. §38-431.02 as amended, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the general public that during the declared State of Emergency a possible quorum of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors may be in attendance during the periodic County Health Emergency Operations Center and incident debriefs; however, no formal discussion/action will be taken by members in their role as the La Paz County Board of Supervisors.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of La Paz County, on this <u>18th</u> day of <u>March 2020</u>.

Holly Irwin, Chairman

D. L. Wilson, Supervisor Dist. 1

Duce Minor, Supervisor Dist. 2

Diane Green, Clerk of the Board