

**ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**County Administrator**

51 South Main Street

Janesville, WI 53545

(608)757-5510

Fax (608)757-5511



## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was discovered to cause a respiratory disease now known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been discovered to be highly contagious and capable of causing severe adverse health consequences, including hospitalization and death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread throughout numerous countries including the United States and numerous cases have been discovered in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency; and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers declared the existence of a public health emergency with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak, pursuant to section 323.02(16) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, and particularly in proximity to Rock County, constitutes a condition in the County posing an imminent threat of a disaster within the meaning of Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin Statutes that impairs medical care, protection of health, and other critical systems of Rock County; and

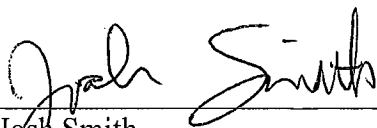
WHEREAS, it is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons within Rock County, that reasonable and prudent steps be taken to treat those infected with COVID-19 and to prevent, limit, and contain the potential community transmission of COVID-19; and

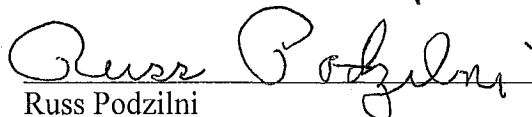
WHEREAS, declaring a local state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the continuity of critical operations of Rock County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that pursuant to sections 323.11 and 323.14(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes; in light of the imminent threat to the provision of medical care and public health that is posed by COVID-19; to protect public peace, health, and safety; and to preserve lives and property, economic stability; and insure cooperation and coordination, that a local state of emergency now exists within Rock County and shall be in place for a period of sixty days, or until modified by further proclamation or further action of the Rock County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this written declaration shall be filed with the County Clerk on the first regular business day following the declaration, and the County Clerk shall present the written declaration to the board of supervisors for ratification at its first meeting following such a declaration.

Date this 16th day of March, 2020

  
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Josh Smith  
Rock County Administrator

  
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Russ Podzilni  
Chair, Rock County Board of Supervisors