

**COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GEORGE F. HALCOVAGE, JR., Chairman
GARY J. HESS, Commissioner



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SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
401 N. 2ND ST.
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901-2528

**COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY
FOR THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL, PENNSYLVANIA**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as “SARS Cov-2”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread throughout the world, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, SARS CoV-2 is known to have the potential to cause Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) in humans; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern,” and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19 under that authority of 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 7101, *et seq.* that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to “act as necessary to meet the current exigencies;” and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Schuylkill County; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) authorized Schuylkill County to declare a disaster emergency “upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent;”

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”), pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501), do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Schuylkill County due to COVID-19.

FURTHER, the Commissioners direct the County Administrator and the County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the County's activities of the emergency response, to work with state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, all public offices and employees of Schuylkill County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives – state and local.

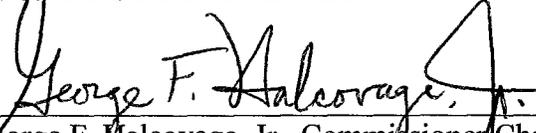
FURTHER, all citizens are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

STILL FURTHER, the Commissioners, pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

Authorized this 18th day of March, 2020.

COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL


George F. Malcovage, Jr., Commissioner Chair


Gary J. Hess, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Linda Deatruck, Chief Clerk