



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health  
Department No.: 041  
For Agenda Of: March, 17, 2020  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Henning Ansorg, MD, Health Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Ratification of Declaration of Local Health Emergency and Ratification of the Proclamation of Local Emergency Regarding COVID-19

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management  
As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Receive an update on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and
- b) Adopt a Resolution ratifying the attached declaration by the local health officer declaring a Local Health Emergency due to an imminent and proximate threat to the public health, within the meaning of Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, by the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and
- c) Upon termination of the State Emergency, direct the local health officer to return every 30-days for re-ratification of the Local Health Emergency until such time that the response and recovery conditions dictate otherwise; and
- d) Adopt a Resolution ratifying the attached Proclamation of Local Emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the Director of Emergency Services on March 12, 2020, when the Board of Supervisors was not in session, pursuant to Government Code Section 8550 et. seq. and Chapter 12, Section 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code; and

- e) Upon termination of the State Emergency, direct the Office of Emergency Management to return every 60-days for re-ratification of the Local Emergency until such time that the response and recovery conditions dictate otherwise; and
- f) Determine the above actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) ratifying a declaration (Attachment B) by the local health officer declaring a Local Health Emergency due to an imminent and proximate threat to the public health, within the meaning of Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, and a Proclamation of Local Emergency, pursuant to Government Code Section 8550 et. seq. and Chapter 12, Section 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, by the introduction of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara.

**Background:**

A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in China in December 2019. On March 04, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency for conditions caused by COVID-19. Also, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global public health pandemic. On March 12, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080, as a result of the international COVID-19 outbreak and to mandate locally, the practice of social distancing as recommended by the Governor of California according to guidelines released on March 11, 2020. Additionally, on March 12, 2020, pursuant to California Government Code 8630, the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding COVID-19.

While the current local situation is evolving, today's recommended actions will provide the County additional powers to coordinate local efforts, protect those most at risk for serious health complications from COVID-19, and identify resources that may be necessary to fully address the County's preparedness efforts and response to the event.

The virus is considered to be a very serious public health threat for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, the fact that it is a novel virus, it is highly contagious, and that there are groups most at risk of serious illness. Additionally, there is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 or specific antiviral treatment.

What is known at this time is that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. Based on experience with other coronaviruses that cause severe respiratory illness the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently believes that symptoms appear two to 14 days after exposure. It is for this reason that the Governor has recommended, and the local Health Officer mandated, the practice of social distancing.

State law requires both the Declaration of Local Health Emergency and the Proclamation of Local Emergency to be ratified by the Board of Supervisors (Board) within seven days of issuance. Today's actions request the Board to ratify, and find that there is a continuing need for, both the Declaration of Local Health Emergency and Proclamation of Local Emergency. If approved, the Board's ratification of the Declaration of the Local Health Emergency and the Proclamation of Local Emergency will (1) further ensure legal immunities for emergency actions taken by the County; (2) facilitate requests by the County and other local governments for State and Federal assistance under the State and Federal Disaster Assistance Programs; and (3) allow the County Executive Officer and County Health Officer to take preventive measures necessary to protect and preserve public health and safety.

The Proclamation of a State of Emergency waives the requirement to re-ratify a Local Emergency every 60 days, and waives the requirement to re-ratify a Local Health Emergency every 30 days. Therefore, these declarations will remain in place until the State of Emergency is terminated. Upon termination of the State of Emergency, if conditions remain in the County of Santa Barbara requiring continued emergency response and recovery, then the Board will need to re-ratify the Local Emergency every 60 days, and the Local Health Emergency every 30 days until such time conditions dictate otherwise.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The fiscal impact of efforts in support of this incident continue and will be reported to the Board in the future.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The estimated costs in responding to the international novel coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently being assessed. The primary costs being incurred by Santa Barbara County Public Health Department are for clinical and administrative support staff in the coordination, surveillance, communication and management of the COVID-19 local health emergency and local emergency, as well as related services and supplies. Current Public Health Department costs are being covered by existing department appropriations, including the use of 1991 Health Realignment, Categorical Funding, and local General Fund. The primary costs being incurred by Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management is related to the proactive emergency planning for operational area response support, county department continuity support, public information support (Spanish translation included), and situation status monitoring and sharing. All County Departments are contributing to the County effort through Continuity planning and prepositioning of resources for their Departments, with a significantly larger commitment by General Services to assist in these measures. Staff will continue to assess funding options and pursue Federal and State reimbursement for all County costs incurred.

**Staffing Impacts:**

The Office of Emergency Management has reallocated all emergency management staff efforts to this response at this time.

**Special Instructions:**

Please execute two (3) originals of each Resolution and retain one (1) original of each Resolution and one (1) Minute Order for pick-up by the department. Please email [phdcu@sbcphd.org](mailto:phdcu@sbcphd.org) when available for pickup.

**Attachments:**

- A. Resolution ratifying a Declaration of Local Health Emergency
- B. Local Health Emergency Declaration and Governor's Guidance on Large Gatherings

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C. Resolution ratifying a Proclamation of Local Emergency

D. Local Emergency Proclamation

**Authored by:** Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD