



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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Immediate Release

Grand Traverse County – In recognition of the serious pandemic that has stricken our county and the entire United States, Board of Commissioner's Chairman, Robert Hentschel, signed a Declaration of Emergency today for all of Grand Traverse County. The Declaration of Emergency is in effect immediately, and pursuant to state law, will be considered for an extension at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Board of Commissioners Chair, Robert Hentschel said, "Based on conversations with community leaders, we know some citizens are not taking the Governor's Executive Order of "Stay Home, Stay Safe" seriously. We reaffirm the Governor's message and agree completely. To be successful we need voluntary compliance by our entire Grand Traverse County community. We also anticipate continued and growing supply chain issues and we want to continue to plan, prepare and respond to address that."

"Grand Traverse County reaffirms President Donald J. Trump's and Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Declarations of Emergency and Executive Orders mandating that we "Stay Home, Stay Safe" and we encourage everyone to follow them", said Chairman Hentschel. Grand Traverse County is seeing positive cases of COVID-19 within the county and would like to use all available resources in an attempt to limit community spread as much as possible. Chairman Hentschel said, "We have a large team of experts and community leaders preparing for horrible situations that others in our nation, and worldwide, have already experienced. We are preparing for the worst and simultaneously working to prevent it. We need to prepare, not panic."

Additionally, like many other jurisdictions, Grand Traverse County is experiencing severe shortages of personal protective equipment for hospitals, medical providers, and first responders as well as supply distribution delays and shortages to local food banks and other critical service non-profit agencies that serve our citizens in need. This declaration makes state and federal resources available to meet these emergent needs.

County officials urge citizens to take the local, state, and national declarations seriously and help end the spread of the life threatening COVID-19 virus as soon as possible.

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