

AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
(COVID-19 Virus)
(Virginia Code § 44-146.21)

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a communicable disease that was declared by the World Health Organization ("WHO") to be a "public health emergency of international concern" on January 30, 2020, and its spread was characterized by the WHO as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19, specifically noting that the anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster as defined by state law; and

WHEREAS, as the County Administrator and Director of Emergency Management for the County of Southampton, Virginia, I find the imminent threat to the public health and safety of the residents of Southampton County posed by and resulting from the COVID-19 virus to be of sufficient severity and magnitude to be an emergency, as defined in Virginia Code § 44-146.16, and to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Virginia Code § 44-146.21, I hereby declare a Local Emergency in Southampton County, Virginia beginning March 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and that the anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster within Southampton County, as that term is described in sections 15.2-1413 and 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia; and

In accordance with this Declaration, the Southampton County Emergency Operations Plan ("Plan") is activated, furnishing aid and assistance under the Plan is hereby authorized, and all appropriate County departments and agencies are hereby vested with and authorized to carry out all powers, duties and functions prescribed by State and local laws, rules, regulations, and plans as may be necessary to adequately and appropriately respond to the Local Emergency by providing emergency services and emergency assistance, and by taking emergency actions.

FURTHER, this Declaration shall authorize county departments and agencies to proceed without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities required by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and other expenditures of public funds.

If the Southampton County Board of Supervisors (the "Board") confirms this Declaration, it shall remain in full force and effect until the Board determines that all necessary emergency actions have been taken and takes appropriate action to end the declared emergency by a majority vote taken at an open meeting, in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 44-146.21 (A).

Given under my hand this 20th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator
Director of Emergency Management