



CITY OF PORTLAND
Executive Department
Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, there is currently an outbreak of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), a respiratory illness, first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and it continues to expand to a growing number of international locations, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services announced a nationwide public health emergency to respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (the “WHO”) declared that global health crisis involving COVID-19 is a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the State of Maine identified and confirmed its first case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the City of Portland, Maine identified and confirmed its first case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, there are seven (7) confirmed cases and five (5) presumptively positive cases in Maine of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been detected in thousands of people worldwide and can be spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, this worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 is emerging and rapidly evolving; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has risen steadily in the past months; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland (the “City”) and all of its departments are prepared to respond to COVID-19 and are committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all Portlanders; and

WHEREAS, the City urges the public to stay home if they are ill and consult with their doctor if they are experiencing more severe symptoms such as shortness of breath, are older adults, or are any age with chronic medical conditions that increase the likelihood of a more severe COVID-19 disease; and

WHEREAS, the City urges the public to practice social-distancing and not attend any and all events where fifty (50) or more people will be gathered, and that all gatherings of more than ten (10) that include individuals who are a higher risk for severe illness, such as seniors, be postponed until further notice; and

WHEREAS, the City recommends that all Portlanders follow the Center for Disease Control's ("CDC") stringent guidance for cleaning and disinfection; and

WHEREAS, the City recommends that all Portland businesses who are able to do so encourage and allow their employees to work remotely; and

WHEREAS, the City recommends that all fitness centers, gyms, yoga studios, indoor cycling studios cease operations for the immediate future;

WHEREAS, the City recommends that all Portland restaurants and bars institute and follow the recommended CDC guidance, and further close their establishments to all in-person dining and gathering, and only offer take-out dining options for their customers; and

WHEREAS, the risk of community spread throughout Portland impacts the life, health and safety of the public and public health is imperiled by the person-to-person spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Maine Governor, Janet Mills, declared a State of Civil Emergency for the entire State of Maine in order to address the threat of COVID-19 poses to the health and welfare of residents and visitors to the State of Maine; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me through the statutes of the State of Maine; the Portland City Code, Chapter 2, section 2-406; the City Charter; and common law authority to protect the public's health, safety and welfare in the event of an emergency, I, Jon P. Jennings, City Manager for the City of Portland, in consultation with the Mayor and City Council of the City of Portland, do hereby declare and order as follows:

1. A civil state of emergency exists within the entire City of Portland.
2. I hereby declare no business shall host or organize and no person shall be in or remain in any establishment within the City including, but not limited to, restaurants, bars, movie theaters, museums, dance clubs, music venues, and any other establishment where individuals gather in groups or are in close contact with one another beginning **March 17, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. until March 18, 2020 at 2:00 a.m. and thereafter daily from 8:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.**
3. As per Chapter 2, section 2-407, this order shall remain in effect for five (5) days unless and until it is renewed by the Portland City Council.

Dated: Monday, March 16, 2020

Jon P. Jennings, City Manager