

**PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF HIGHSPIRE
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to 146 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with pre-existing medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, as a result of the imminent threat to the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania posed by COVID-19, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf issued a proclamation of disaster emergency; and

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

WHEREAS, the United States 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, it is critical to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed cases in the Commonwealth and to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the threat of COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the Borough of Highspire; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population of the Borough of Highspire, including possible loss of life; and

WHEREAS, action is necessary in order to reduce the severity of the disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected resident in the Borough of Highspire and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, all necessary emergency management measures are being implemented to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of every citizen in the Borough of Highspire.

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me by Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 PA C.S., Section 7501) as amended and the Borough Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 10A06, I hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Borough of Highspire.

FURTHER, additional appropriate action will be taken and this declaration will be amended as the situation develops and additional steps become necessary.

FURTHER, all essential Borough operations shall continue and shall operate subject to and in accordance with the power and authorities provided for under the Borough Code.

FURTHER, I direct the Highspire Borough Emergency Management Coordinator to manage all activities of the emergency response, take all appropriate actions needed to alleviate the effects of the disaster, aid in the restoration of essential public services, and take any other emergency response action deemed necessary.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately and shall be continued for a period not in excess of seven (7) days, unless renewed by or with the consent of the Highspire Borough Council.

ATTEST:


Mark L. Stonbraker, Borough Manager


Brenda K. Hoerner, Mayor

Date: 3/17/2020