

## PROCLAMATION

Whereas, as of March 14, 2020, the World Health Organization has confirmed 142,539 worldwide cases of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"), including 5,393 deaths;

Whereas, as of March 15, 2020, there are 3324 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 63 deaths;

Whereas, since March 3, 2020, the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the United States has grown exponentially;

Whereas, the limited availability of COVID-19 testing in the United States has limited the testing throughout West Virginia;

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency;

Whereas, all other states throughout the United States have confirmed COVID-19 cases, and as of March 14, 2020 39 states have declared a state of emergency;

Whereas, the Governor of West Virginia ordered all public and private school schools closed throughout West Virginia through at least March 27, 2020, in order to keep all West Virginians as safe as possible;

Whereas, Taylor County, West Virginia has the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions across the world to help slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19 in our County and State; and

Whereas, the commission has continuously reviewed the situation, consulted with Grafton City Department Officials, Emergency Management Officials, Public Health Officials, and other state and local government officials in order to determine the need for this proclamation;

**NOW, THEREFORE:**

The TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSION DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM, pursuant to the authority granted in West Virginia Code § 7-1-3kk and § 15-5-1 et seq. that the spread of COVID-19 in the United States creates an existing and threatened state of emergency and endangering the lives, safety, health and welfare of the people within Taylor County, West Virginia.

The Taylor County Commission hereby declares to all persons the existence of this state of emergency and, in order to more effectively protect the lives of the people within Taylor County, West Virginia effective upon the signing

of this proclamation by the Taylor County Commissioners, the Taylor County Commission will be exercising the authority granted it in West Virginia Code § 7-1-3kk and § 15-5-1 et seq. through the use of executive orders, emergency policies, and through the use and direction of County Personnel, services, and equipment, to perform acts necessary to the management of this existing and threatened state of emergency.

Pursuant to the authority granted it in West Virginia Code § 7-1-3kk and § 15-5-1 et seq., it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of any restriction imposed by the executive orders or emergency policies issued under the authority of this proclamation.

Upon execution, this proclamation shall be filed with the County Clerk and a copy shall be sent to the Governor of West Virginia. This proclamation and any executive order or emergency policy issued under the authority of this proclamation shall be available on the Taylor County, West Virginia website.

This proclamation shall be in effect until the Taylor County Commission issues a subsequent proclamation rescinding the existing and threatened state of emergency.

DATED this 20 day of March, 2020

  
ORVILLE WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER

  
SAM GERKIN, COMMISSIONER

  
TONY VELTRI, COMMISSIONER