

Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

## Declaration of Local Emergency

Monday, March 16, 2020

**WHEREAS**, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in China; and,

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

**WHEREAS**, we are continuing our efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that this is a novel illness and given the known health risks it poses for the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has reported 109,578 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3,809 deaths attributable to COVID-19 globally as of March 9, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreaks in China, Iran, Italy and South Korea, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict non-essential travel to or from those countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel, and has advised all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available, and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, a vaccine or drug is currently not available for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in communities with confirmed COVID-19 cases, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures, including staying at home when sick, when a household member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or when instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider and keeping away from others who are sick; and

**WHEREAS**, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the CDC indicate that it is expected to spread; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation for the reasons set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 93 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and many additional persons under investigation in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions provide legal justification for the issuance of a declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-1-6 and the emergency powers of the Mayor pursuant to Section 2-45 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Aurora;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in the interest of aiding the people of the City of Aurora, and the public at large, I, Richard C. Irvin, Mayor of the City of Aurora, State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2.** Based on the above recitals, and pursuant to the provisions of 65 ILCS 5/11-1-6 and the emergency powers of the Mayor pursuant to Section 2-45 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Illinois, I find and declare that a state of emergency exists in the City of Aurora, State of Illinois.

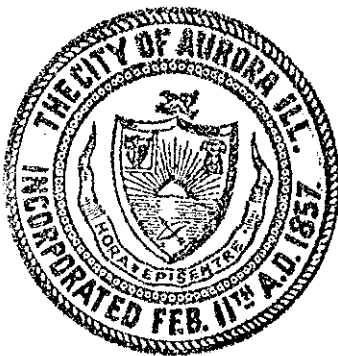
**SECTION 3.** As a result of this declaration and during its term, I may exercise all powers necessary to respond to COVID-19 and preserve the public health, safety and welfare including, without limitation, the following: activate of the City's emergency operations plan; suspend provisions of any regulatory ordinance or law prescribing procedures for conduct of city business, or the orders rules and regulations of any city department, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the public health emergency caused by COVID-19; recommend or direct in-place sheltering or quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and exercise any other power not inconsistent with State and federal law to respond to and contain COVID-19.

**SECTION 4.** Further, effective at 9:00 PM on this Monday, March 16, 2020, the sale and dispensing of alcoholic liquor for onsite consumption by liquor licensees is suspended pursuant to Section 2-45(4) of the City Code of the City of Aurora.

**SECTION 5.** Further, all meetings of the City Council and its committees, and of all boards and commissions of the City presently scheduled to occur prior to April 1, 2020 are cancelled.

**SECTION 6.** This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect until after the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the City Council after the date of this declaration, or, if the state of emergency has not been resolved as of the commencement of the next regular meeting of the City Council, until further executive order of the Mayor.

**SECTION 7.** This written declaration shall be filed with the City Clerk as soon as practicable.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Irvin", written over a horizontal line.

Richard C. Irvin, Mayor  
Aurora, Illinois

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Stallings", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Stallings, City Clerk  
Aurora, Illinois