

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING**  
**THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS,**  
**A DISASTER AREA FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE**

**WHEREAS**, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged; 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 with certain underlying medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in communities with confirmed COVID-19 cases, the CDC recommends mitigation measures, including practicing social distancing, staying at home when sick, staying home 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**, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in Illinois on March 9, 2020, and reissued the proclamation on April 2, April 30, May 29, June 26, July 24, August 21, September 18, and October 16; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to combat COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 13, 2020, 14,757 cases and 204 deaths have been confirmed in Winnebago County due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the positivity rate in Region 1 in which Winnebago County is located is at 18.9% as of November 13, 2020, and is 19.1% in Winnebago County as of November 12, 2020, and hospital admissions are beginning to surge beyond capacity and resources are being severely impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, Winnebago County must take action to contain and mitigate the local impact of COVID-19 and can do so through issuance of a local disaster proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, empowers the County Board Chairman of Winnebago County, Illinois, to declare a local disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, such a proclamation will assist Winnebago County, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and Health Department, to coordinate county and municipal resources and

response activities and to take other actions, as deemed necessary, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the community and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency, as defined under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/4; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Winnebago County, State of Illinois, and federal resources available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that the safety and security of residents and visitors in Winnebago County is protected; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring that a disaster exists in Winnebago County will have the effect of activating the Emergency Operations Plan of the County and will authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance to carry out that Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Health Administrator of Winnebago County has made the recommendation to the County Board Chairman to enact a Disaster Proclamation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, I hereby proclaim that a local disaster exists within Winnebago County, Illinois.

**This Proclamation shall be effective on November 13, 2020, and shall be given prompt and general publicity and filed with the Clerk of Winnebago County, Illinois. This Proclamation shall expire in seven (7) days unless terminated sooner by me, in my capacity as principal executive officer of Winnebago County, Illinois, or unless extended by a vote of the Winnebago County Board.**



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Frank Haney  
County Board Chairman