

COUNTY OF BUCKS
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, it has been two years since the discovery of the SARS CoV-2 virus that caused the disease COVID-19. Since then, the virus has mutated and caused different variants; and

WHEREAS, variants that are more contagious, cause more severe symptoms, and/or decrease the effectiveness of existing health measures such as treatment or vaccination are called variants of concern. There are currently five variants of concern which include the Delta variant and the Omicron variant; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) declared that the Omicron variant, first discovered in South Africa on November 9, 2021, and designated as a variant of concern on November 26, 2021 is now the dominant variant in the United States comprising nearly three quarters of all new COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2021, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared that the Omicron variant is spreading faster than any other variant including the Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, preliminary international research indicates that the Omicron variant decreases the effectiveness of certain vaccines and treatments; and

WHEREAS, given the characteristics of the Omicron variant along with the reported statewide and local hospital capacity issues, healthcare systems may become quickly overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, masking, social distancing, testing, and vaccinations, especially boosters, are critical to containing the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of affected residents in Bucks County; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act (35 Pa.C.S. §7501) authorizes Bucks County to declare a disaster emergency “upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent”; and

NOW THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners of Bucks County, pursuant to the provisions of §7501, do hereby declare the existence of an emergency in Bucks County due to COVID-19.

FURTHER, the Commissioners direct the Chief Operating Officer and the Bucks County Director of Emergency Services to coordinate the County’s activities of the emergency response, to work with all state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, the Board of Commissioners, pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. §7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities proscribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

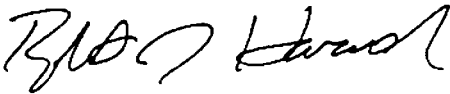
AND FURTHERMORE, this Declaration shall remain in effect until January 31, 2022, or until rescinded or extended.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately. Authorized this 29th day of December 2021.

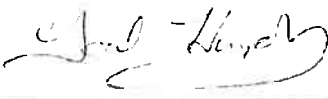
COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

BY: 

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW
Commissioner, Chair

BY: 

Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Commissioner, Vice Chair

ATTEST: 

Gail Humphrey, Chief Clerk

BY: 

Gene DiGirolamo
Commissioner

DATE: December 29, 2021