



# COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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Gary Eichelberger  
*Chairman*

Jean Foschi  
*Vice Chairman*

Vince DiFilippo  
*Secretary*

## PRESS RELEASE

March 17, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cumberland County Issues Declaration of Disaster Emergency

*All Cumberland County Government Buildings Will Close Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday March 19*

**Carlisle, PA** – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners today signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to COVID-19. As presumed positive cases of COVID-19 exist in Cumberland County, the commissioners made this decision for the health and safety of our county employees and residents.

The courthouse and all county facilities will be **closed Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday March 19** to all visitors, but will remain open to essential personnel. During this time, the board of commissioners will continue to develop additional mitigation efforts for all Cumberland County government operations. The board will provide an update on Thursday, March 19.

This declaration shall not affect any limitations and restrictions previously imposed on visitation and access to Claremont Nursing Home and the Cumberland County Prison, which limitations and restrictions shall continue to apply.

All residents and all other persons should refrain from coming to the Cumberland County Courthouse and all county-owned buildings and facilities to address non-essential and non-emergency activities during the time the declaration is in effect. The only exception being any court proceedings and court-related matters as specifically indicated by order of the President Judge of Cumberland County that shall be conducted.

This declaration shall not affect any limitations and restrictions previously imposed on visitation and access to Claremont Nursing Home and the Cumberland County Prison.

This declaration authorizes Cumberland County to take all appropriate actions needed to effectively mitigate and respond to the current situation. This declaration also allows Cumberland County officials to purchase needed supplies, employ temporary workers and enter into contracts and agreements with vendors without the “time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law.”

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated since Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020 and will continue to monitor the situation.

*Editors’ Note: Declaration of Disaster Emergency below:*

## **CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

### **DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

**March 17, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has spread to 150 countries and territories, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with pre-existing conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, presumed positive cases of COVID-19 exist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including Cumberland County, and the possible increased threat by COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth and Cumberland County; and

**WHEREAS**, this threat of imminent disaster has caused schools to close and businesses to close or limit hours of operation, prompting municipal governments including counties to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020, which urged governing bodies of all political subdivisions affected by the COVID-19 emergency to act as necessary in meeting the current exigencies as legally authorized under his Proclamation, without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the undersigned Commissioners of Cumberland County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Service Code, 35 Pa. C.S.A., Section 1701 et seq., do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Cumberland County.

**FURTHER**, we direct the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, 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 disaster emergency.

**FURTHER**, we request that residents and all other persons to refrain from coming to and entering into the Cumberland County Courthouse and all Cumberland County buildings and facilities to address non-essential and non-emergency activities during the time this Declaration is in effect, the only exception being any court proceedings and court-related matters as specifically indicated by order of the President Judge of Cumberland County that shall be conducted. This Declaration shall not affect any limitations and restrictions previously imposed on visitation and access to Claremont Nursing Home and the Cumberland County Prison, which limitations and restrictions shall continue to apply independent of this Declaration; and

**FURTHER**, residents and all other persons are requested to view public meetings of the Board of Commissioners during the time that this Declaration remains in effect that are available by the live streaming link available on the Cumberland County website through <https://www.ccpa.net/> as opposed to attending public meetings of the Board of Commissioners in person; and

**FURTHER**, the Chief Clerk and Deputy Chief Clerk and through them, their designees, are authorized and directed, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, maintain essential public services, and to take any other action deemed necessary to respond to this disaster emergency as if the same were ordered and directed by the Board of Commissioners; and

**FURTHER**, that Cumberland County, effective as of the date of Declaration and until otherwise directed by the Board of Commissioners, shall operate only with essential employees; being those designated employees of Cumberland County departments which perform functions essential to the health and safety of Cumberland County residents and those employees whose services are essential to the operation of the business of Cumberland County during the time of this disaster Declaration; and

**FURTHER**, that the Commissioners of Cumberland County shall consider additional compensation for essential employees due to the length and exigencies of this emergency situation as the Commissioners, in their discretion, shall decide; it not being the intention of the Commissioners to penalize financially any employees of Cumberland County due to this emergency situation; and

**FURTHER**, this Declaration of Disaster Emergency shall remain in effect and be continued in excess of seven (7) days from its effective date until terminated by subsequent action by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

**This Declaration shall take effect immediately.**

**###**

*Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net).*