

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20-06

RESOLUTION SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE
SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT ADOPTING A
DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE EMERGENCY GENERAL
FUND RESERVES FOR COVID-19-RELATED
EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high” and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States and Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently indicates there are over 85,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with multiple cases in the United States, and the Washington State Department of Health confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State’s general public creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has had 15 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, including 1 fatality, and 64 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs); and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the Snohomish Health District (District) activated its District Operations Center to manage their response to the nation’s first case of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, Snohomish County Emergency Coordination Center, began coordinating information and resources across county government to support the District in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident with the District; and

WHEREAS, this emergency may become a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a Health Officer's Order was issued on March 4, 2020, declaring an emergency and waiving formal purchasing and procurement requirements; and

WHEREAS, District staff is overwhelmed with the influx of calls and inquiries related to COVID-19, and due to the exceptional effort required to respond to the outbreak, overtime is being incurred in several departments in response to this new infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the District has set up a call center and is preparing to activate a home assessment team; and

WHEREAS, additional personal protective equipment and other supplies and equipment will need to be purchased quickly, and additional staffing resources and overtime is anticipated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District's 2011 purchasing policy, the Health Officer has determined that delay in purchasing and procurement of supplies will result in an increased risk to public health and has suspended and waived formal bidding and procurement requirements; and

WHEREAS, the District maintains an Emergency General Fund Reserve that can be accessed in the event of an emergency where the District's response is significant; and

WHEREAS, the response required by the District continues to grow and the expenditures required will be beyond the approved budget; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to access the Emergency General Fund Reserve and authorize expenditures therefrom.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health as follows:

1. The Health Officer's Order dated March 4, 2020, declaring a public emergency is hereby adopted and ratified in full.
2. The proclamation issued by the Snohomish County Executive declaring an emergency is hereby adopted by reference.
3. The Board of Health does hereby delegate to the Administrative Officer or his designee(s) the authority to execute contracts and authorize expenditures related to the COVID-19 emergency to be deducted from the Emergency General Fund Reserves, in a total not to exceed \$500,000, and in light of the demands of a dangerous and escalating emergency situation to implement this resolution without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities otherwise normally prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements).
4. The Board of Health directs the Administrative Officer or his designee(s) to take necessary actions to mitigate or prevent impacts on private property and public infrastructure including obtaining emergency permitting through the applicable agency.
5. A copy of this resolution, to the extent practicable, shall be posted at the District's regular locations for official notices and shall be made available to members of the local news media and the general public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment takes effect immediately.

Snohomish Health District
Res. 20-06
Declaration of Public Health Emergency – COVID-19
March 10, 2020

ADOPTED this 10th day of March 2020.

Stephanie Wright, Chair
Board of Health

ATTEST:

Shawn Frederick, MBA
Administrative Officer