



**Mayoral Proclamation and Executive Orders
March 15, 2020**

Whereas: In December 2019, a novel (new) coronavirus known as COVID-19 (“the virus”) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China; and

Whereas: The State of Ohio government, under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton, has adopted necessary and bold preventive and proactive measures to slow the spread of the virus and treat those affected; and

Whereas: On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 outbreak can be characterized as a pandemic, as the rates of infection continue to rise in many locations around the world and across the United States; and

Whereas: The spread of COVID-19 within our community threatens to strain our local and regional healthcare systems; and

Whereas: As of March 15, 2020, three individuals from within Franklin County have tested positive for COVID-19; and

Whereas: Additional measures are deemed necessary, above and beyond those instituted by the State and Federal government, in order to help slow the outbreak of COVID-19 in our community; and

Whereas: In the event of a “.... disaster affecting life and property and which substantially impairs the functioning of the City government and its ability to protect the lives and property of the people,” the Mayor is authorized to proclaim the existence of a State of Emergency in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENJAMIN J. KESSLER, Mayor of the City of Bexley, by the authority vested in me by the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bexley, including Section 648.09 (Mayor’s Emergency Powers), and consistent with Section 660.02 (Spreading Contagion), do hereby find and proclaim that the threat of a COVID-19 outbreak in the City of Bexley constitutes a State of Emergency, beginning March 15, 2020. Pursuant to this proclamation, I hereby issue the following executive orders:

Section 1. Order regarding individual daily health checks.

All residents are directed to perform daily temperature checks and daily checks for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Symptoms commonly include fever, a dry cough, and shortness of breath. Residents without access to a thermometer are exempt from the temperature check requirement, but are encouraged to take reasonable and safe steps to procure a thermometer at home.

Section 2. Order regarding self-quarantine.

Residents who have a fever and/or who otherwise demonstrate symptoms consistent with those outlined in Section 1, are hereby directed to remain in their home, with the exception of traveling for necessary medical care or testing, until cleared by a licensed medical professional or by Franklin County Public health officials. Additionally, residents impacted by this Section are ordered to prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home, and are encouraged to avoid sharing unwashed household items, to clean all high-touch surfaces regularly, and to wash laundry thoroughly.

Section 3. Order regarding single-use plastics ban.

The Single-use plastics ban is hereby lifted for the duration of the effect of this proclamation. Residents are encouraged to use reusable bags which have been washed or otherwise fully sanitized between uses, or to use and properly recycle single use bags provided at the point of sale.

Section 4. Guidance regarding fitness facilities.

Fitness facilities, including workout facilities with or without instruction, yoga, pilates, and barre studios, and other similar facilities, are encouraged to suspend indoor operations. Any outdoor operations shall take all necessary precautions to encourage adequate distancing.

Section 5. Guidance regarding indoor play spaces.

Indoor play spaces are encouraged to suspend operations of open play activities.

Section 6. Guidance for places of worship.

Places of worship are encouraged to provide alternate means of worship to assembly; to take all necessary precautions to seat individuals or family units a minimum of 6' apart; to provide for the hands-free operation of doors; and to provide hourly cleaning protocols for high-touch surfaces during operation.

Section 7. Creation of a COVID-19 Task Force.

The formation of a COVID-19 Response Task Force will occur at the direction of the Mayor. The initial individuals appointed to the COVID-19 Task Force shall be named by March 16, 2020, and the COVID-19 Task Force shall be responsible for assisting with the provision of supplies to individuals under self-isolation or quarantine, facilitating additional support to economically vulnerable populations in the City, helping to support local businesses and employees impacted by the outbreak, and advising as to other additional steps to be taken at the local level in support of local, statewide, and national efforts regarding the containment of COVID-19.

Section 8. Duration of orders.

This proclamation shall be in full force and effect until April 6, 2020, and may be modified or extended at any time if public health conditions warrant.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Bexley, Ohio, to be hereto affixed this 15th day of March, 2020.



Mayor Benjamin J. Kessler

