



## Memorandum

**To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners**

**From: Therese Cremonte, Emergency Management Coordinator**

**Date: 3/15/2021**

**Re: Resolution to Approve Local Declaration of Emergency– Emergency Management / Public Safety/ Finance / Full Board**

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The local impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, has created the need for a local emergency declaration in order for Livingston County to safely continue business while complying with the Michigan Opens Meetings Act.

Due to COVID 19, the following conditions exist: As of March 8, 2021, Livingston County has experienced 9,439 confirmed cases of COVID 19 and 140 confirmed COVID 19 related deaths. Cases are expected to continue through spring of 2021. Vaccine to combat the COVID 19 virus has been limited for the priority 1a, 1b, and 1c groups in Livingston County. To date, the amount of vaccine received in Livingston County is insufficient to vaccinate all eligible groups. This limited supply has hindered the ability of Livingston County to return to full operations. Further, the vaccine will likely not be available to the general public in Livingston County until summer of 2021, based on current estimates.

On October 16, 2020 Senate Bill 1108 extended the ability to hold public meetings electronically virtually through December 31, 2020 and retroactively from March 18, 2020. Further, that between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, public meetings may be held electronically / virtually if there is a statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster as described in section 3(2).

On December 23, 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law Senate Bill 1246, extending the authority for public bodies to conduct electronic "virtual" meetings for any reason through March 31, 2021. Senate Bill 1246 has not been amended and will expire on March 31, 2021

A Local Emergency Declaration by the Livingston County Board of Commissioners should be considered to continue holding electronic / virtual public meetings to protect the public and county leadership until the danger of the pandemic has passed, and vaccines are readily available to the Livingston County citizens.

Once approved and signed, the local declaration must be filed with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, posted under the Livingston County Emergency Management Program Status on the Michigan Critical Incident Management System (MICIMS), and filed with the Livingston County Clerk's Office. Other jurisdictions within Livingston County may operate under the provisions of this Local Emergency Declaration for Livingston County.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me.