



MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2021

TO: Board of Commissioners

RE: **EOC Status/Declaration**

In consideration of the current emergency declaration's pending expiration, I have met with Scott Corbin, Frank Baker, Angelique Joynes, Steve Sedore, Rob Sarro, Lorna Nenciarini to consider the potential impact of letting the declaration expire or extending it. In doing so, we considered a few questions outlined below:

Q1. Does an extension of the current local declaration in and of itself deploy any restrictions upon the public?

A1. No, there are not any local orders directly associated with the declaration.

Q2. Does the placement of or absence of a local declaration impact the resources being provided to the pandemic response?

A2. In general, no. As the "urgency" of the situation changes volunteers may change their willingness/desire to respond. Volunteers were in use with and without a declaration and Emergency Management will commit the same level of support needed for PH response to the pandemic whether we continue with a declaration or not. However, volunteers may not be sustainable even with a declaration remaining in place. As such, funding will need to be available to put designated resources in place to continue response to the pandemic.

Q3. Volunteer protection from certain liabilities has been connected to provisions under PA 390. In the absence of the declaration with this protection continue to be afforded to volunteers?

A3. According to legal counsel, there is very little if any impact of a local declaration relative to providing liability protection to volunteers. The general immunity P.A. 390 references exists in other statute. Immunity referenced for medical professionals is contingent upon a declaration by the Governor.

The team rendered the following conclusion: With or without a declaration in place, continuation of response resources at a minimum of the current level (moderate response, not surge conditions) without full reliance on volunteers, MiNG and internal staff requires the reservation/allocation of funds. It is recommended at this time that an ARPA reserve of \$9M be set aside for pandemic response and be routinely re-evaluated for need as more is learned (which could cause for more or less reliance on local ARPA funds).

Understanding that with the allocation of the ARPA funds local resources would exist to respond to the pandemic, the need for a declaration may have diminished. Absent a declaration, Public Meetings would be required to be in person (public could be permitted to participate remotely as an enhanced access to the meeting. Recognizing that SD/EM resources will continue unchanged, and with the understanding that funds will be allocated for resources, it is likely the declaration could expire without major detriment (but may need to be reinstated if factors change, e.g. hospitalization, variants, cases, fatality/mortality rates, etc.)

While, there is not a clear detriment to leaving the declaration in place, there could be question as to the propriety of a declaration being needed since various restrictions have been lifted and funds are available for the response. If the Board chooses to extend the declaration, a few modifications may be necessary and can be brought back on June 24.

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2020, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, declared that a "local state of emergency" exists within our jurisdiction as of November 6, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration is set to expire on June 30, 2021, unless otherwise extended by the Board of Commissioners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Allegan County Board of Commissioners hereby extends the above referenced Declaration through December 31, 2021, unless otherwise terminated in advance or extended by the Board of Commissioners.