



## DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has mutated with the variants more virulent causing rapid rises in cases placing pressure on the local healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the above-described emergency, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Watauga County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Watauga County Code of Ordinances:

**Section 1.** A State of Emergency is hereby declared within Watauga County as more particularly described in Section 2.

**Section 2.** The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be (*check box*):

- All areas within the jurisdiction of Watauga County
- The following specific areas within the jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_:
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3.** The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed:

- Evacuation:** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Curfew:** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Restricted Access:** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Operations:** Private businesses are highly encouraged to follow current NC Department of Health and Human Services guidance.

**Alcohol:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dangerous Weapons & Gasoline (Except for lawfully possessed firearms and ammunition):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** Face coverings are required in all County buildings and shall be required in areas where space or operations require close contact. Additional restrictions shall be enforced as imposed by the Governor of North Carolina by Executive Order 117 and subsequent Executive Orders as applicable.

**No restrictions or prohibitions are imposed at this time.**

**Section 4.** I hereby order all Watauga County Sheriff's Office law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Watauga County Emergency Operations Plan.

**Section 5.** I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the County Commissioners; and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

**Section 6.** This declaration shall take effect on August 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

**DECLARED** this the August 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM



\_\_\_\_\_  
*John Welch*  
*Chairman, Watauga County Commissioners*