

**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER
DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic and raised the health emergency to its highest level; and

WHEREAS, the local health officer reported on March 14, 2020, the life-threatening, infectious and contagious disease diagnosed as COVID-19 was identified in three individuals in Spokane County;

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, there have been nine cases of COVID-19 diagnosed within Spokane County;

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 Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, this disease can result in serious impacts to the health and well-being of the public and can overwhelm the health and medical system of Spokane County;

WHEREAS, due to the above referenced conditions, there is substantial likelihood of risk to the citizens of Spokane County and multiple cities therein unless further efforts are taken to reduce the threat; and

WHEREAS, state law, RCW 70.05.070(2)-(3), requires and empowers the local health officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, state regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the local health officer, when necessary, to institute disease control and containment control measures, including declaring a public health emergency that he or she deems necessary based on his or her professional judgment;

WHEREAS, the Greater Spokane Emergency Management agency began coordinating information and resources across the county and local governments to support the Spokane Regional Health District in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident;

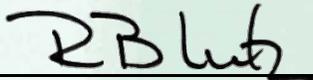
WHEREAS, this declaration of a public health emergency will allow the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health to consider suspending formal purchasing and bidding requirements for purchases of supplies, equipment, or personal services to provide immediate access to funding and services necessary to combat the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Health District is experiencing a rapid increase in the demands created by COVID-19, both financially and from a personnel perspective;

Therefore, as local health officer, it is **DECLARED** as follows:

1. The spread of COVID-19 and the effort to combat it and suppress its impacts to persons in Spokane County requires extraordinary measures and constitutes a public health emergency. A public health emergency is hereby DECLARED to exist.
2. It is further requested that the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health consider suspension of the formal purchasing and bidding requirements and public notice requirements for the purchase of supplies, equipment, or personal services related to COVID-19.

This order shall be effective March 20, 2020 and shall remain in effect until terminated by subsequent order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBLutz", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Lutz, MD, MPH, Health Officer