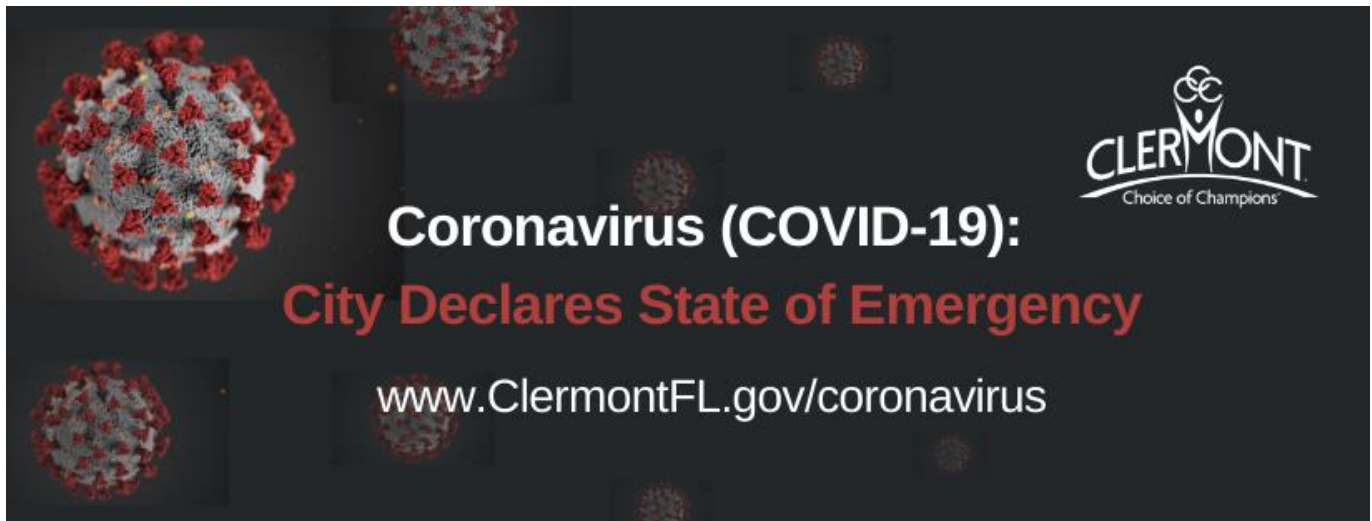




City of Clermont

Kathryn Deen, Communications Director
352-241-7345, kdeen@clermontfl.org
685 W. Montrose St., Clermont, FL 34711
www.ClermontFL.gov

NEWS RELEASE



City of Clermont Declares Local State of Emergency, Closes Buildings in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) *City Services Available Online and by Phone*

CLERMONT (March 17, 2020) – The City of Clermont has declared a local state of emergency due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Clermont Mayor Gail Ash signed the resolution today due to the serious health threat that COVID-19 poses to Clermont's residents, visitors and the community. City Council unanimously approved the declaration today at an emergency council meeting in council chambers. The city's decision followed Lake County's emergency proclamation on March 16.

"We are taking every possible measure to ensure that the City of Clermont is slowing the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic," Ash said. "Now is the time for our citizens to practice social distancing and limit their time in public, especially to protect the most vulnerable – the elderly and those with chronic illness."



The city also announced today that it is closing all city buildings and select parks starting March 18 until March 30. The parks that will close are Bishop, Hancock, Lake Hiawatha, McKinney, Palatlahaha and West. In addition, all events at city facilities are canceled until May 11 (eight weeks), as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These dates are subject to change.

City services will continue to be available by phone at 352-394-4081 and online at www.ClermontFL.gov whenever possible.

The World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern and has assessed COVID-19's threat as very high. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared COVID-19 as a high potential public health threat high in the U.S. and globally.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order on March 1 declaring that appropriate measures are necessary to control the spread of COVID-19 and directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the state.

These formal actions ensure that the State of Florida, Lake County and City of Clermont can take any prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community.

The City of Clermont has been closely monitoring COVID-19 and has been in regular communication with state and local agencies.

For city updates and resources, visit the City of Clermont's COVID-19 webpage, www.ClermontFL.gov/coronavirus and the City of Clermont Government Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/CityOfClermont; Facebook posts can be viewed on the webpage.

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About the City of Clermont. Clermont, Fla., is known as the Choice of Champions® due to its international reputation as a training ground for elite athletes and the community's celebration of the championship spirit. Founded in 1884 as a model town, the city of 40,000 is about 20 miles west of Orlando and is set among picturesque hills and pristine lakes. Clermont is the largest city in Lake County. More at www.ClermontFL.gov.