



## AMENDMENT # 9 - STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER

**WHEREAS**, Graham County issued a State of Emergency Order ( Executive Order No. 116) on March 19, 2020, following Governor Cooper’s State of Emergency declaration for the State of North Carolina on March 10, 2020, which addresses response and protection actions to prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19 as a potentially serious and deadly public health hazard; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of North Carolina has issued the following Executive Orders, in addition to Executive Order 116; Executive Order No. 117 prohibiting mass gatherings and directing the statewide closure of K-12 public schools to limit the spread of COVID-19; Executive Order No. 119 “Limiting Operations of Restaurants and Bars and Broadening Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Response to COVID-19; Executive No. 119 waiving restrictions on child care and elder care and providing DMV flexibilities; Executive Order No. 120 temporary closure of certain business in which members of the public may be in close contact with each other and extension of statewide closure of K-12 public schools in response to COVID-19; Executive Order No. 121 Stay at Home in Response to COVID -19; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest Executive Order is a critical step in minimizing close contact between members of the community, Close contact for COVID -19 is currently defined as contact within six (6) feet for a duration of at least ten minutes. Social distancing is a specific strategy, proven by data to severely lessen the impact of high consequence pathogens by minimizing the opportunity for close contact encounters; and

**WHEREAS**, Graham County has limited access to health care facilities and is following the guidance from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents of Graham County remain safe and secure; and

**WHEREAS**, under NCGS 166A-19.20A *et seq* and 14-288.1 *et seq*, the declaration of a State of Emergency qualifies the county and its local government units to take what actions it deem necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents, and pursuant to NCGS 166A-19.20A and 14.288.1;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we hereby amend the State of Emergency declared on March 19, 2020, to include the address additional protective measures on the full year and part year residents currently occupying Graham County:

1. There will be a fourteen (14) day moratorium on the issuance of non-resident entry permits beginning Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM EDT, except for healthcare workers or persons considered to be essential workers in essential functions, or engaged in essential activities, as defined under Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 121. This moratorium will expire at 7:59 AM,

Monday, April 13, 2020, at which time the moratorium will be revisited and either expire or be extended for another fourteen (14) days, from April 13, 2020.

2. All permits which were applied for before 5:00 pm EDT Friday, March 27, 2020, but not issued and/or under review, will be issued on a case by case basis only, based on the definition of essential work and essential activities in the Governor's Executive Order No. 121.
3. Any permit applied for after 5:00 PM, Friday, March 27, 2020, will be placed in review and held for approval for the 14 days, unless it meets the Governor's essential work or essential activities definition under the Governor's order to stay at home.
4. Due to the fact that the Fontana Lake is rising, which could cause significant damage to houseboat properties if left unattended, houseboat owners will be permitted access to their houseboats to check on their property. They will be required to self- quarantine if they remain inside the county borders. Houseboat owners will continue to apply for permits and provide documentation that the vessel is considered to be a houseboat by the NC Wildlife Commission and permitted as such.
5. Effective Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 pm, any person entering Graham County, who is coming to Graham County from another state or Country, must quarantine for fourteen (14) days upon arrival. All members of the household must remain in quarantine for fourteen (14) days as well, so persons entering Graham County from out of state or out of the Country, should bring enough supplies, such as groceries and medication, to last for fourteen (14) days.
6. Non-resident permit holders who leave the County to return to their principal place of residence for any reason will have to re-apply for permits. If provided re-entry permits, re-entry to Graham County will require a fourteen (14) day quarantine period, as provided for in order No. 5 above.

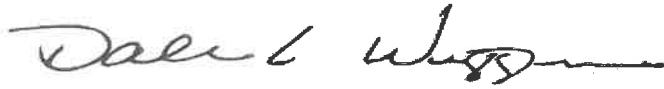
By and with the consent of the mayors of the municipalities in Graham County, this declaration of the Local State of Emergency applies within the municipal limits of the Town of Robbinsville, the Town of Lake Santeetlah, and the Town of Fontana Dam.

This Declaration is in addition to the Executive Orders referenced above and should any provision hereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of any competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of this Declaration that as a whole or any part thereof, which is not specifically declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

Any person who violates any provision of the Declaration shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor in accordance with NCGS Sections 166A-19.3 and 14.288.20A.

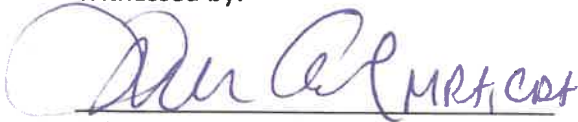
This amendment to the Declaration to the State of Emergency Order shall take effect at 5:00pm EDT on this the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2020, under the authority vested in me by Graham County Emergency Management Ordinance and NCGS 166A-19.20A and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Adopted this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 at 9:00 AM EDT.



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Dale Wiggins, Chairman  
Graham County Board of Commissioners

Witnessed by:

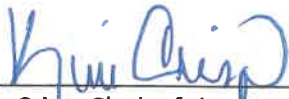


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Rebecca E. Garland, MPA, CPA  
County Manager



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Larry Hembree, Director, Emergency Management

ATTEST:



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Kim Crisp, Clerk of the Board

(County seal)

