



Office of the  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
ABBOT HALL  
188 Washington Street  
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS 01945

Jackie Belf-Becker, Chair  
Harry C. Christensen Jr.  
M. C. Moses Grader  
Judith R. Jacobi  
James E. Nye

Jason Silva  
Town Administrator

## ***DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY***

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest recommendation announced by the federal government to limit the transmission of the coronavirus is no more than ten people in one place; and

**WHEREAS**, today, March 23, 2020 Governor Baker ordered all non-essential businesses to cease in-person operation, directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay at home advisory for two weeks and updated the state's assembly order to limit gatherings to 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead and the Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which

poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Marblehead; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead and the Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Marblehead; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead and the Board of Health strongly advise the public to practice social distancing, avoid group activities and events, practice good hygiene, and stay home when sick to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and


**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead and the Board of Health believe that the health of Marblehead citizens is a top priority and notifying them with current information is critical, regular updates will be posted on the Town's website [marblehead.org](http://marblehead.org); and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Marblehead; and


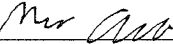
**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marblehead and the Board of Health of the Town of Marblehead, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of Monday, March 23, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Marblehead. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

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James E. Nye  
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**BOARD OF HEALTH:**

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