

## RENEWAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION

In response to the developing community health crisis surrounding COVID-19/Coronavirus and pursuant to Chapter 775 of the Columbus City Health Code, Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code, and the contract between Columbus Public Health and the City of Worthington, Resolution No. 20-08, a declaration of Public Health Emergency to include the cities of Columbus and Worthington, was passed and issued by the Columbus Board of Health on March 13, 2020.

That declaration is set to automatically terminate after thirty (30) days; specifically, April 12, 2020.

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to Chapter 775 of the Columbus City Health Code and Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code, Resolution No. 20-09, authorizing the Health Commissioner to declare a public health emergency without convening the Board of Health, was passed by the Columbus Board of Health.

Due to the continuing community health emergency related to COVID-19/Coronavirus, in conjunction with the States of Emergency declared by the Governor of Ohio and the Mayor of Columbus and the Orders issued by the Ohio Department of Health, and pursuant to the authority granted in Columbus Board of Health Resolution No. 20-09, Chapter 775 of the Columbus Health Code Chapter, and Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code,

### **I HEREBY ORDER:**

Renewal of the Public Health Emergency declaration for the cities of Columbus and Worthington issued on March 13, 2020, shall be renewed for an additional thirty (30) days, to begin on April 13, 2020 and expire on May 12, 2020.



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner

4-13-2020  
Date



**Resolution No. 20-08**

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services, determined and declared that a public health emergency exists in the United States in relation to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists over 129,000 worldwide cases of COVID-19 in 88 countries and over 4,700 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 1, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a statewide Health Alert Network to provide local health departments with updated guidance for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, testing by the Department of Health confirmed that three (3) patients were positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio, creating a potentially dangerous condition which may affect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio is experiencing “community spread” of the virus that causes COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine, signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio in relation to COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio urged all citizens to heed to the advice of the Department of Health and other emergency officials regarding COVID-19 in order to protect their health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings throughout the State of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Governor declared that all K-12 schools throughout Ohio will be closed effective the afternoon of March 16, 2020 and remain closed for a three (3) week period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, in the cities of Columbus and Worthington, there is an imminent threat of an acutely hazardous disease, illness, or health condition; specifically, COVID-19, that is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel infectious agent; and

**WHEREAS**, in the cities of Columbus and Worthington, this imminent threat of an acutely hazardous disease, illness, or health condition poses a high probability of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people, a large number of serious or long-term disabilities, or a large number of deaths;

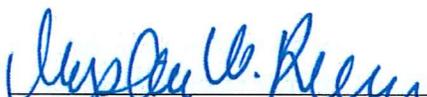
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 775 of the Columbus City Health Code, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3709, and the contract between the Columbus Public Health Department and the City of Worthington, executed on December 2, 2019 and approved on January 27, 2020, a state of public health emergency is declared in the cities of Columbus and Worthington;

SECTION 1: The entire jurisdictions of the cities of Columbus and Worthington are subject to this declaration of public health emergency.

SECTION 2: This declaration shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until terminated after a finding that the occurrence or condition that caused the public health emergency no longer exists or is threatened. In any event, this declaration shall automatically be terminated after thirty (30) days unless renewed by the Board of Health and/or the Health Commissioner.

**ADOPTED:** March 13, 2020

  
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Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Secretary

  
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Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, RN  
President Pro Tempore

**Resolution No. 20-09**

**WHEREAS**, the Columbus City Health Code Chapter 775 confers upon the Board of Health emergency powers to deal with an occurrence or imminent threat of an acutely hazardous disease, illness, or health condition that is believed to be caused by bioterrorism or the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin; and

**WHEREAS**, the occurrence or imminent threat poses a high probability of a large number of deaths in the affected population, or a large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population, or widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the affected population; and

**WHEREAS**, the declaration of a public health emergency grants the Board of Health and/or the Health Commissioner special powers of quarantine and isolation, control of roads and public areas, and testing and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, imminent threats to public health and safety, if left unchecked, will cause personal hardship throughout the general public in the City, including death, hospital overcrowding, shortages of health care workers, and disruptions to businesses and critical infrastructure because of illness-related absenteeism; and

**WHEREAS**, time is of the essence as related to imminent threats to public health and safety and it may be impracticable to convene a duly noticed and legally binding meeting of the Board of Health; and

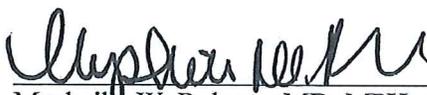
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health is authorized to empower the Health Commissioner, should she determine that the pertinent requirements of Columbus Health Code Chapter 775 are met, to act in its absence pursuant to a resolution;

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

SECTION 1: Subject to the requirements of Columbus Health Code Chapter 775, the Columbus Board of Health confers to Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH, in her capacity as the Health Commissioner of the cities of Columbus and Worthington, the authority to declare a public health emergency without convening the Board.

SECTION 2: Any declaration of a public health emergency made by the Health Commissioner of the cities of Columbus and Worthington without convening the Board shall meet the requirements of Columbus Health Code Chapter 775.

**ADOPTED:** March 17, 2020



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Secretary



Karen J. Morrison, JD, MS  
President Pro Tempore