March 31, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Town of Orange, through the Board of Health, has determined that Covid-19 poses a significant, immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of people residing both within and outside the Town of Orange, and, as such, has declared a Local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued an Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People (COVID-19 Order No. 13)

At this time, on Tuesday March 31, the Orange Board of Health has decided to close all public parks in an effort to protect families in the Town from the continued spread of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The logic behind this decision is as follows:

- Public Parks, by nature, are designed and used for community gatherings and;
- The best way to slow the spread of viral infectious disease is to limit contact with other individuals through social distancing.

Therefore, it is prudent to close the public parks, as they could become a vector for infection in the community.

The reopening of the parks will coincide with the lift of the Town of Orange’s State of Emergency.

For any questions on this decision feel free to contact the Board of Health at my office number 978-544-1107.

Thank you for your continued support in protecting our community.

Respectfully,

Matthew Fortier
Health Agent

This order is issued pursuant to the Board of Health’s emergency powers pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, Sections 30, 104, and 122; 105 CMR 400.200(B); and 310 CMR 11.05.