March 12, 2020

The Orange Board of Health met tonight at 5:00P.M., March 12, 2020, to declare a state of emergency. This action is being taken through an abundance of caution, to help protect our citizens from the COVID-19 coronavirus, which has now been declared as a global pandemic. Social isolation is known to be an important first step toward lowering the chance of exposure to communicable disease, and the steps we will outline are intended for that purpose.

We also take this action in order to position the town and its citizens to be able to take advantage of any and all subsequent relief that is offered by state and federal agencies, for the purpose of offsetting the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I will repeat that we are acting through an abundance of caution, following the recommendation of other state and federal public health agencies. There is no know COVID-19 in Orange, or in Franklin County at this time, we believe that taking proactive steps now is the best way to ensure that this continues.

We know that at the very least, we are causing great inconvenience for many people, especially our elder citizens who rely on the senior center for important services. But we would much rather be criticized for overreacting than to wish later that we had acted sooner,

Respectfully,

Pat Pierson, Chair

Jane Peirce, Member

Matthew Fortier, Health Agent