

Emergency Management Powers Ordinance
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND ORDER

I, Julie Morgas Baca, the County Manager of Bernalillo County, have consulted with the Director for Emergency Management, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2020-07 and I hereby find that a Civil Emergency exists in Bernalillo County and that invocation of the extraordinary powers conferred by Ordinance No.2020-07 are necessary to help preserve and maintain the welfare of the general public. I am invoking provision (H) under Section 3 of the Emergency Management Powers Ordinance, which was passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Bernalillo County in March.

COVID-19 has had a ravaging effect on families in our state. Many individuals have lost their jobs or have had their business suffer, or even shut down, as a result of the measures required to keep individuals safe. Last year, the Board of County Commissioners of Bernalillo County passed the Employee Wellness Act, which provided paid time off to employees of certain employers within the unincorporated limits of Bernalillo County. The Employee Wellness Act is set to take effect on July 1, 2020. Because of the economic impact to businesses in our community, I am invoking the power vested in me by the Emergency Management Powers Ordinance to delay the effective date of the Employee Wellness Act. I greatly appreciate the importance of the Employee Wellness Act. Bernalillo County strongly encourages all businesses that are currently providing paid time off to their employees to continue to do so and those businesses that were planning to provide paid time off under this ordinance to begin doing so. Furthermore, Bernalillo County stands ready to assist both employees and business owners during this difficult time. **Therefore, I order the Employee Wellness Act to take effect October 1, 2020, instead of July 1, 2020.** This delay not only provides businesses an opportunity to regain their strength and hire back employees they may have laid off, but it also allows Bernalillo County to fulfill our commitment to assist in educating employers and employees and implementing the Employee Wellness Act so that it works to serve all constituents affected by it.

I will immediately deliver a copy of this Declaration and Order to the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, the Bernalillo County Fire Department, all major media outlets serving the County, and the Chair of the County Commission. I will also post a copy of this Declaration and Order on the County's website and on all County social media platforms.