

# ORDER OF THE ADAMS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency with respect to this virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of Indiana (the "**Governor**") issued Executive Order 20-02, which declared that a public health emergency exists in Indiana as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), and on March 23, 2020 the Governor further issued Executive Order 20-08 that declared that all citizens of Indiana are to remain in their homes except for essential business and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Indiana has had an additional 373 positive cases of COVID-19 as of yesterday, March 30, 2020 bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases in the State of Indiana to 2,159 and further had an additional 14 deaths yesterday bringing the total number of deaths from COVID-19 to 49 in the State of Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently over 156,000 positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States, an increase of more than 100,000 positive cases in one week; and over 3,400 deaths, an increase of more than 2,600 deaths in one week; and

**WHEREAS**, there are organizations, including churches and schools that have continued to hold services and classes in the past week causing a substantial risk of a spread of the virus throughout the Adams County Community; and

**WHEREAS**, I.C. §16-20-1-24 provides that a local health officer may order schools and churches closed and forbid public gatherings when considered necessary to prevent and stop epidemics; and

**WHEREAS**, the orders and rules being issued by the State and Federal Governments concerning public gatherings during the COVID-19 outbreak have been fluid and rapidly changing; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant portion of the population of Adams County, Indiana, has limited or no access to the rapidly changing public information being issued by the State and Federal Governments concerning the virus.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Michael E. Ainsworth, M.D., as Adams County, Indiana Health Officer, does hereby ORDER and direct that all schools in Adams County be closed until such time as the public health emergency issued by the Governor of the State of Indiana is lifted.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all churches in Adams County hold no services and have no gatherings with more than 10 individuals until such time as the public health emergency issued by the Governor of the State of Indiana is lifted.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that no gatherings of more than 10 individuals shall be held, including but not limited to funerals, until such time as the public health emergency issued by the Governor of the State of Indiana is lifted.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that except for grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies and other establishments that sell food and fill prescription medications as well as essential businesses as defined by the Governor, there shall be no public gatherings of more than 10 individuals until such time as the public health emergency issued by the Governor of the State of Indiana is lifted.

The orders contained herein shall be effective immediately.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2020.



Michael E. Ainsworth, M.D.  
Adams County, Indiana Health Officer