

A Declaration of Disaster is a formal statement by a jurisdiction's chief public official. Though commonly addressed after a disaster, a declaration may be made if a disaster is "imminent." An emergency health declaration is issued when a disease or disorder presents a public health emergency or that a public health emergency, including significant outbreaks of infectious disease, otherwise exists.

A disaster declaration allows public officials to exercise emergency powers to preserve life, property and public health. Most often, disaster declarations are sought so federal and state resources can be obtained for both individuals and public entities. Without a declaration of disaster, this would not be possible.

An emergency health declaration gives a county flexibility in acquiring goods or services needed to combat the infectious disease, as in our current situation, the coronavirus and the resulting COVID-19.

A disaster declaration activates the entity's Emergency Management Plan. An Emergency Management Plan is a course of action developed to mitigate the damage of potential events that could endanger lives or property.

This does not mean a change for you in your daily lives, this means your County is working for its residents to insure resources can be accessed if needed.