

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DECLARING A
STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO DENGUE FEVER A MOSQUITO-BORNE
ILLNESS**

WHEREAS, Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne illness transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, capable of causing severe flu-like illness, Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, and potential loss of life; and

WHEREAS, local transmission of Dengue fever has been identified and confirmed within Hillsborough County, posing an immediate and widespread threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of Hillsborough County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the mitigation of mosquito-borne pathogens requires immediate, aggressive, and continuous vector control measures, including source reduction, wide-area larviciding, adulticiding, public education, and emergency resource coordination; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2026, the Department of Health issued a mosquito-borne illness advisory for Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, as of September 17, 2026, the Arbovirus Report reflected 134 confirmed cases of Dengue fever within the County affecting the general population; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Hillsborough County Ordinance 06-13 (Hillsborough County Code of Laws and Ordinances, Part A, Chapter 22, Article II, Sections 22-19 through 22-30), authorizes Hillsborough County to declare a state of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-21, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, empowers the Board, Board Chair, or County Administrator, as designee, to declare that a local state of emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-22, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, provides that a state of emergency shall be limited to seven days, but may be extended, as necessary, in seven-day increments; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of a local state of emergency empowers the County to request any available and necessary state, federal, and local emergency funds, grants, financial assistance, and mutual aid to support ongoing emergency response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, the scale of the necessary public health response requires extraordinary measures, including the waiver of formal procurement procedures to rapidly secure control chemicals, specialized equipment, other prudent supplies, and supplemental staffing.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THIS 24TH DAY
OF SEPTEMBER 2026, THAT:**

1. A Local State of Emergency is hereby declared throughout all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Hillsborough County, Florida, effective immediately, due to the imminent public health hazard posed by the Dengue fever.
2. The emergency provisions of the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Plan and relevant public health response protocols are hereby activated. The County Administrator, in consultation with the Emergency Management Director, the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County, and Hillsborough County Mosquito Control, is authorized to direct emergency operations.
3. This Executive Order supersedes and controls over any County ordinance, rule, or policy that may be in conflict with this Order.
4. This Executive Order takes effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect for seven days unless extended or rescinded by the Board, Board Chair or County Administrator.

Executed this 24th day of September 2026

Bonnie M. Wise

Bonnie M. Wise, County Administrator
Hillsborough County

APPROVED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY

Approved as to form and legal Sufficiency

BY: Ernesto Mayor, Jr.

Senior Assistant County Attorney

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)

I, VICTOR D. CRIST, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing County Administrator Order Declaring the State of Local Emergency on September 24, 2026, in Response to a Countywide Threat from Dengue fever a mosquito-borne illness is a true and correct copy of the Order executed by the County Administrator of Hillsborough County, Florida, on September 24, 2026.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 24th day of September, 2026.



VICTOR D. CRIST
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: 
Deputy Clerk