EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR EXTENDING THE STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARED ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 IN RESPONSE TO A COUNTY WIDE THREAT FROM 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 27, 2026, the Florida Department of Health issued a mosquito-borne illness advisory for Hillsborough County following a confirmed human case of locally acquired Dengue fever; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, the Florida Department of Health issued a mosquito-borne illness alert for Hillsborough County following a second confirmed human case of locally acquired Dengue fever; 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, as of September 30, 2026, the Arbovirus Report indicated the number of confirmed cases within the County had risen to 223; and

WHEREAS, as of October 8, 2026, the Arbovirus Report indicated the number of confirmed cases had risen to 259; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2026, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 26-212 declaring that a state of emergency exists in Hillsborough County and authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to order such ameliorative mosquito or other arthropod control measures as are necessary to prevent additional mosquito related issues; and

WHEREAS, as of October 15, 2026, the Arbovirus Report indicated the number of confirmed cases had risen to 310; and

WHEREAS, as of October 22, 2026, the Arbovirus report indicated the number of confirmed cases within Hillsborough County had risen to 346; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2026, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publicly announced it had issued a Level 3 Emergency response related to Dengue fever outbreaks in the State of Florida and stated continued domestic transmission remains a concern; and

WHEREAS, as of October 29, 2026, the Arbovirus report indicated the number of confirmed cases within Hillsborough County had risen to 386; and

WHEREAS, as of November 5, 2026, the Arbovirus report indicated the number of confirmed cases within Hillsborough County had risen to 407; and

WHEREAS, the November 12, 2026 Arbovirus report indicated the total number of confirmed locally acquired cases within Hillsborough County had risen to 468; and

WHEREAS, the November 19, 2026 Arbovirus report indicated the total number of confirmed locally acquired cases within Hillsborough County had risen to 486; and

WHEREAS, while test results confirming the presence of locally acquired Dengue can sometimes take several weeks, the November 25, 2026 Arbovirus report nevertheless indicates the total number of confirmed locally acquired cases within Hillsborough County has risen to 494; and

WHEREAS, the areas of concern for disease transmission requiring mitigation efforts currently encompass over one-half of Hillsborough County; 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, on October 1, October 8, October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5, November 12, and November 19, 2026, the County Administrator issued Orders extending the local state of emergency declared on September 24, 2026, in response to the countywide outbreak of Dengue fever; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency declared under the authority of Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-22, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, and Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, shall have a duration of no more than seven days, renewable for further periods of no more than seven days; 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; and

WHEREAS, in light of the ongoing Dengue fever outbreak and continuing confirmation of additional cases, it is prudent to maintain a local emergency declaration.

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON THIS 25th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY DESIGNATED IN SECTION 252.38 F.S., AND SECTION 22-22 OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CODE ISSUES THIS ORDER 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.
3. 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.
4. This Executive Order supersedes and controls over any County ordinance, rule, or policy that may be in conflict with this Order.
5. 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 25th day of November, 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 Order is a true and correct copy of the Order executed by the County Administrator on November 25, 2026.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 25th day of November, 2026.

VICTOR D. CRIST
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk