



HALE COUNTY, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and is a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott, issued a state-wide disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hale County, Texas; there are more than 83 confirmed cases of COVID-19 located in multiple Texas counties including three (3) confirmed cases in adjoining Lubbock County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe illness, injury, or loss of life requiring emergency action and represents a public health disaster according to the Texas Department of State Health Services; and

WHEREAS, Hale County has already taken numerous steps to prepare for COVID-19, such as coordinating preparedness efforts with officials of municipalities located within Hale County and the local health authority to promote appropriate prevention and mitigation efforts;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas, on March 19, 2020, issued Executive Order GA-08, placing restrictions on social gatherings, visitations to local food and retail establishments where individuals in large numbers gather; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-08 also places additional restrictions on visitations to nursing homes, retirement centers and long-term care facilities as well as temporarily closing schools; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for Hale County to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Hale County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on March 16, 2020, issued COVID-19 Guidelines for America calling upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108 authorizes the County Judge, as the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court of Hale County, Texas, to issue a declaration of local disaster in order to protect and preserve the public health, safety and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HALE COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. **THAT** a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Hale County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code § 418.108(a).

2. **THAT** there is hereby placed a limit on the size of all social gatherings to no more than ten (10) people and mandates the cancellation of all such social gatherings with more than ten (10) people.

3. **THAT** the use of the public eating and drinking areas and facilities at restaurants, bars, retail eating establishments and food courts and visiting gyms or massage parlors is prohibited; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup or delivery services of restaurants, retail eating establishments and food courts is permitted and highly encouraged during the term of this Declaration.

4. **THAT** the limitation on the size of social gatherings applies to any event that brings together, or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, and without limitation, any auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, Plainview Civic Center, conference center, cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space; provided, however, it does not apply to the following:

- (a) public or private schools;
- (b) licensed day care facilities;
- (c) weddings and funerals;
- (d) museums (so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods);
- (e) spaces where 10 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit, such as bus stops;
- (f) office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
- (g) grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but where it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
- (h) hospitals, medical facilities, and shelters; and
- (i) jails and detention centers.

5. **THAT** the limitation on the size of social gatherings does not apply to places of worship but all such places of worship are highly encouraged to voluntarily comply with the limitations provided in this Declaration.

6. **THAT** pursuant to § 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code this Declaration of Local Disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Hale County, Texas.

7. THAT pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of Local Disaster activates the emergency management plan for Hale County.

8. THAT pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of Local Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of Hale County.

9. THAT this Declaration authorizes Hale County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the COVID-19 virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from Hale County.

10. THAT Hale County and the County Judge are authorized to use all available resources of Hale County reasonably necessary to comply with this Declaration.

11. THAT for all gatherings, It is strongly recommended that citizens adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

12. THAT pursuant to § 418.173 of the Texas Government Code, any person who knowingly or intentionally violates this Declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

13. THAT this Declaration shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 19, 2020 and continue until renewed, extended, amended or cancelled on its own terms or by the Commissioners Court of Hale County.

SO ORDERED this the 19th day of March, 2020.

HALE COUNTY, TEXAS

David B. Mull

DAVID B. MULL, Hale County Judge

ATTEST
Latrice Kemp
LATRICE KEMP, Hale County Clerk

CERTIFIED FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Latrice Kemp

James M. Tirey
JAMES M. TIREY, Hale County Attorney

Latrice Kemp County Clerk
Hale County Texas
03/20/2020 08:27 AM
Fee: \$0.00
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