

**COUNTY OF TITUS, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-08; and

WHEREAS, Titus County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to the Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS

SECTION 1. That local state disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Titus County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That pursuant to 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless approved by the Commissioners' Court of Titus County, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Titus County, Texas emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures,

examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.

SECTION 6. In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive Order GA-08, all social gatherings should adhere to the most current recommendations promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This declaration hereby limits the size of social gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such social gatherings of more than 10 people throughout the limited duration of this declaration. A "social gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.

SECTION 7. In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-08, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-through, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this declaration.

SECTION 8. In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-08, people shall not visit nursing homes, retirement centers, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

SECTION 9. In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-08, all schools in Titus County shall remain temporarily closed.

SECTION 10. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a 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.

SECTION 11. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 12. That this declaration shall take effect Friday March 20, 2020 at midnight and after its issuance and, upon approval by Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

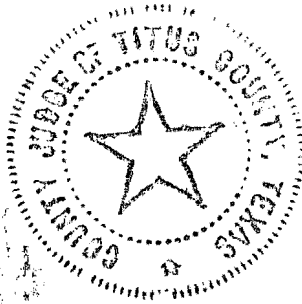
DECLARED this 19 day of March, 2020.

FILED FOR RECORD

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COUNTY CLERK TITUS CO TX

BY ys DEPUTY



Brian P. Lee

County Judge
Titus County, Texas