



Sean O'Brien
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Wade J. Hedtke
Karnes County Judge

Sharon Chesser
Commissioner, Precinct 4

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, I, Wade J. Hedtke, Karnes County Judge, am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code, Chapter 418) to declare a public health emergency and order the implementation of certain directives as further set out herein; 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 18, 2020, officials from a surrounding County (DeWitt County) confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 the governor of the State of Texas issued an executive order relating to the COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Karnes County will continue to work collaboratively with the Cities of Karnes County, Karnes County employees, as well as the local health authority, to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID 19 within Karnes County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist the County's response to this situation.

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

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Karnes County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b), of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Karnes County Commissioners Court.

3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates Karnes County's emergency management plan as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Karnes County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease throughout Karnes County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Karnes County and any impacted areas.
6. Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Karnes, I issue guidance as set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1", Exhibit "2" and Attachment "1".
7. As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Karnes, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 19th day of March, 2020.



Wade J. Hedtke
Karnes County Judge

MAR 19 2020
4:33 PM
KARNES COUNTY CLERK
KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS
Deputy

Exhibit "1"

Declaration regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Other Matters

- I. Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings:
 - a. This Exhibit "1" incorporates and adopts, except as where noted below, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) dated March 15, 2019.
 - b. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.
 - c. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this declaration prohibits all indoor public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of TEN (10) persons or more anywhere in Karnes County beginning at 8:00 AM on March 20, 2020 and continuing for seven (7) days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.
 - d. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than ten persons.
 - e. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
 - f. In addition to the guidance contained herein, local businesses, restaurants and bars are required to follow all Proclamations or Executive Orders issued by the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas, or Center for Disease Control guidelines to include:
 - i. Restrictions related to indoor dining or assembling;
 - ii. To disinfect and sanitize commonly touched surface and non-food contact surfaces at least once every hour;
 - iii. To encourage curbside food-to-go programs or deliveries;
 - iv. To adopt and implement a screening policy for food handlers and all employees, and establish protocols for the immediate exclusion of employees if they develop the following symptoms:
 - a. Fever greater than 100.3 degree F, and/or
 - b. Cough and shortness of breath; and
 - v. Make available for all employees and patrons visible COVID-19 prevention print materials within the restaurant or establishment.

II. Definitions and Further Guidance:

- a. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together TEN (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theater, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- b. A Mass Gathering includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (1) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (2) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.
- c. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separated enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, so long as ten people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where ten or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as ten or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.
- d. For purposed of clarity, a Mass Gathering does not include the following:
 - (1) public or private school and places of worship;
 - (2) museums (so long as visitors are generally are not within arm's length of one another for extended periods);
 - (3) Spaces where ten or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops;
 - (4) office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
 - (5) grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
 - (6) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; and
 - (7) jails and detention centers. In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow Social Distancing Recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph "d" is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space holds ten or more people.
- e. "High-risk Populations" include people who are:
 - i. 60 years old and older;
 - ii. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened Immune systems;
 - iii. People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.
 - iv. People experiencing homelessness.
- f. The Local Health Authority and Director of Health may update restrictions sat out in this Exhibit as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the next 7 days and any extension by the Karnes County Commissioners Court.

- III. All Karnes County Courts Including but limited to County Courts (with the exception of the County Commissioners Court functioning in its administrative capacity), District Court, Justice of the Peace courts, City Municipal Courts, are directed to the protocol established by the FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER issued March 13, 2020, jointly by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. (See Exhibit 2).

Exhibit "2"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-9042

IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-007

**FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING
THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**

ORDERED that:

1. Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal—and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public—without a participant's consent:

a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted;

b. Allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

c. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

d. Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;

e. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing;

f. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.

3. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

4. This Order is effective as of March 13, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;

b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and

c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

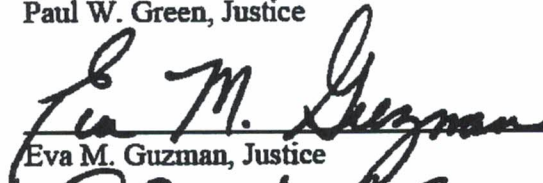
Dated: March 13, 2020



Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



Paul W. Green, Justice



Eva M. Guzman, Justice



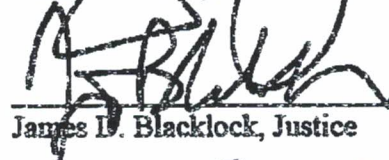
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



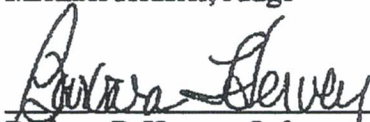
C. Bratt Busby, Justice



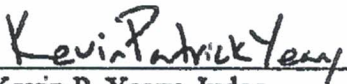
Jane N. Bland, Justice


Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge

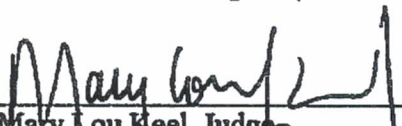

Michael Keasler, Judge



Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

Bert Richardson, Judge


Kevin P. Yeary, Judge


David Newell, Judge


Mary Lou Keel, Judge


Scott Walker, Judge


Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
March 19, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 08

Relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a 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, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call 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, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, “[t]he governor is responsible for meeting . . . the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters” (Section 418.001 of the Texas Government Code), and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:52 AM '20 CLOCK

MAR 19 2020

- Order No. 1 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Order No. 2 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, 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-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Order No. 4 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding governor.



Given under my hand this the
19th day of March, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

Handwritten signature of Ruth R. Hughes in black ink.

RUTH R. HUGHES
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:52 AM O'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020