

MAVERICK COUNTY

DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Recitals

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19, as Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this pandemic;

WHEREAS, Texas Governor Greg Abbott on March 13, 2020 declared a state of disaster and authorized all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 5,587 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 101 deaths; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, unidentifiable infected individuals could not be properly tracked to prevent the spread of infection; and

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

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, I, David Saucedo, County Judge of Maverick County, together with Commissioners Court have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, prevent the spread of the disease and promote the health and safety of individuals in Maverick County; and

WHEREAS, Maverick County will work collaboratively with the Mayor of the City of Eagle Pass, Maverick County employees as well as the local health authority to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contagion and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF MAVERICK:

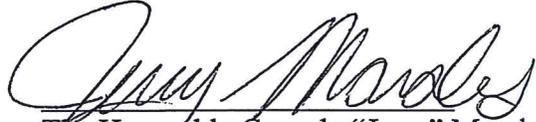
1. That a state of disaster based on public health emergency is declared for Maverick County pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, Commissioners Court hereby consents to extend this Declaration for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this Declaration until further Order of this Court.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, the County may take actions necessary to protect the health of persons in the County.

5. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
6. Maverick County therefore adopts Exhibit "A" regarding public and private gatherings.

ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2020.



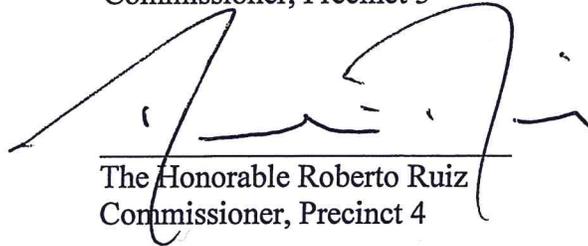
David Saucedo, County Judge
County of Maverick, Texas


The Honorable Gerardo "Jerry" Morales
Commissioner, Precinct 1

The Honorable Rosy Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

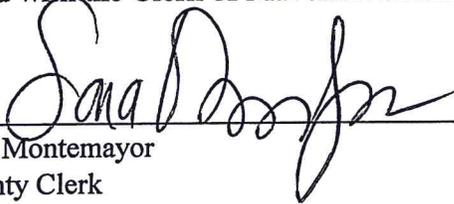


The Honorable Pete Venegas
Commissioner, Precinct 3



The Honorable Roberto Ruiz
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Filed with the Clerk of Maverick County:



Sara Montemayor
County Clerk

Date: 3/18/2020

EXHIBIT “A”
DECLARATION REGARDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATHERINGS

1. 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 patient and safeguard public health and safety.
2. 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 within an enclosed space of 10 persons or more anywhere in Maverick County beginning on the day of execution and continuing for so long as reasonably necessary unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.
3. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States centers for Disease control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the “Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission” issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) on or around March 12, 2020 (available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/comunity-mitigation-strategy.pdf, as well as “Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” issued on or around March 15, 2020 (available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Mass-Gatherings-Documents_FINAL.pdf) including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 10 persons.
4. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
5. 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 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, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theatre, 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 (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) 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 separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or ore people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.
- d. For purposes of clarity, a “Mass Gathering” does not include the following: (i) Maverick County International Airport; (ii) public or private schools and places of worship; (iii) museums (so long as visitors are generally not within arm’s length of one another for extended periods); (iv) spaces where 10 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops; (v) office space, hotels, or residential buildings; (vi) 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; (vii) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; and (viii) 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 10 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.