

**BASTROP COUNTY, TEXAS  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China and is recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared COVID-19 a pandemic, referencing over 133 countries and territories around the world, with the sustained risk of further global spread; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of Disaster in Texas due to the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact, and large gatherings of people pose an increased risk of spreading the infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of serious illness and risks overwhelming healthcare resources; and

**WHEREAS**, action is required to take immediate steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, to protect the health and welfare of residents of Bastrop County; and

**WHEREAS**, other local governments in our immediate area have taken steps to limit the size of gatherings in an effort to further address the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Bastrop County is working collaboratively with the Mayors of the cities of Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville, as well as the Local Health Authority, to see that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 here; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster for public health emergency expedites our 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 Bastrop County.

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

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the governing body of Bastrop County, Texas and under Texas Government Code, Section 418.108, I DECLARE a local state of disaster within Bastrop County based on the threat posed by COVID-19.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above-cited statute, including the requirement that within seven (7) days this declaration will be continued, renewed or authorized by the Commissioners Court of Bastrop County.

**FILED**  
**MAR 16 2020 3:00 PM**  
Rose Pietsch  
Bastrop County Clerk

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this declaration activates the Bastrop County Emergency Management Plan and all other emergency statutory and ordinance powers vested in the County Judge or other Local Officials.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance under the administration of such plans.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** 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 in the County's response to this emergency.

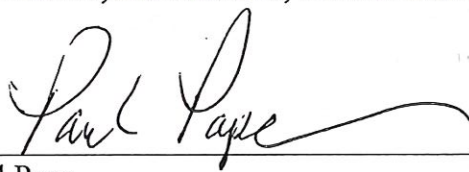
**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(g), the County Judge may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area under the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises within that area.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this order prohibits community gatherings of more than 50 persons anywhere in Bastrop County continuing through the term of this disaster declaration, unless terminated or modified by written order.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that violations, per occurrence, of this Disaster Declaration are punishable as a Class C misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed \$500.00, or as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 418.173 and adopted in the county emergency management plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the County Clerk.

ORDERED, and effective, this the 16th day of March, 2020 at 4:00 PM.



Paul Pape  
Bastrop County Judge

ATTEST:



Bastrop County Clerk

**FILED**  
**MAR 16 2020** 3:00  
Rose Pietsch  
Bastrop County Clerk P.M.