

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

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 global pandemic, referencing over 133 countries and territories around the world, with the sustained risk of further spread around the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster in Texas due to the virus 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, said State of Disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the COVID-19 virus spreads through respiratory droplets 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 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, 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:

SECTION 1. THAT, 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. Unless otherwise noted below, the jurisdiction of this Declaration is the unincorporated areas of Bastrop County.

SECTION 2. 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 County Officials.

SECTION 3. 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 inter-jurisdictional Emergency Management Plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance under the administration of such plans.

SECTION 4. THAT, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108 (f) and (g), the County Judge may, anywhere within the County, by written Order or Directive, take actions necessary to promote health and suppress the spread of the virus, including but not limited to quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County or any part of the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and enforcing compliance with all such Orders and Directives. Such Orders and Directives may be superseded by Executive Order of the Governor of Texas or the President of the United States.

SECTION 5. THAT, 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 its political subdivisions to assist in the County's response to this Emergency.

SECTION 6. THAT, 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 7. THAT, this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 8. THAT, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of Texas Government Code, this State of Disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the statute, including the requirement that within seven (7) days this Declaration be consented to by the Commissioners Court of Bastrop County; and that this Declaration shall continue in full force and effect until the County Judge, upon consultation with the Bastrop County Health Authority and following a briefing of the Commissioner Court, issues an order to terminate it.

SECTION 8. That, this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and upon its issuance; and 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.

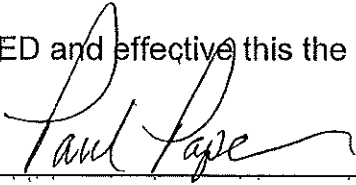
FILED

MAR 19 2020

Rose Pietsch
Bastrop County Clerk

3:55
P.M.

ORDERED and effective this the 19th day of March, 2020 at 3:30 PM.



Paul Pape
Bastrop County Judge

ATTEST to Declaration:



Rose Pietsch, Bastrop County Clerk

ATTEST to Consent:

Consent to this Declaration was given by the Bastrop County Commissioners Court on the 23rd day of March, 2020, in agenda item # 3 in open court, seven (7) or fewer days from its issuance.



Rose Pietsch, Bastrop County Clerk

3-23-2020

Date

FILED
MAR 19 2020 3:55
Rose Pietsch
Bastrop County Clerk P.M.