

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF TOM GREEN

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ELIZABETH MCGILL
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF TOM GREEN, TEXAS

EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus with confirmed cases in multiple Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, some local schools, universities and other governmental entities are beginning to alter their schedules, and some venues are beginning to temporarily close, as precautionary response to the increasing presence of COVID-19 in Tom Green County; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Tom Green County citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 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, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the County Judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county "if the threat of disaster is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of increased cases of this contagious illness; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting the lives by mitigating the threat of COVID-19; and

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Judge Stephen C. Floyd, County Judge of Tom Green County, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of COVID-19 in Tom Green County, Texas that public or private *Community Gatherings* are prohibited within Tom Green County.

- 1) For purposes of this declaration, a *Community Gathering* is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together 10 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, indoor recreation facilities such as bowling alleys, skating rinks, gyms or health clubs, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- 2) An outdoor *Community Gathering* under the regulations is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (a) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (b) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods. For clarity this includes but is not limited to weddings, religious services, parties, funerals, sporting events, conference and other gatherings.

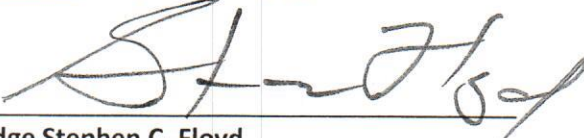
- 3) These regulations do not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as an office tower, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. These regulations also do not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. In this instance rules for social distancing, provision of hand sanitizer, and increased cleaning of surfaces are required.
- 4) This declaration prohibits all restaurant and bar activities with the exception of carry-out or delivery services.
- 5) For purposes of clarity, a *Community Gathering* does not include the following so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods:
 - a) Critical infrastructure including airports and airport facilities and operations and transit facilities;
 - b) Government buildings providing essential services;
 - c) Grocery stores and pharmacies; and
 - d) Hospitals and medical offices and facilities.
- 6) For purpose of clarity "*grocery stores*" includes big-box stores, warehouse stores, gas stations, and food pantries that provide and sell food products and household staples.
- 7) 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, 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.
- 8) That, pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Tom Green County emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded by the County Judge in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that a violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$ 500 or as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the county's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$ 1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

This declaration becomes effective at **MIDNIGHT (12:00 am) MARCH 20, 2020** and shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 20th day of March, 2020.



Judge Stephen C. Floyd