



LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated as 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 a 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 epidemic; and

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

WHEREAS, over 1267 cases of COVID – 19 have been reported in the United States, including 38 deaths; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; 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, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Hays County residents; and

WHEREAS, Hays County will work collaboratively to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID – 19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

- 1) That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Hays County, Texas, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code; and
- 2) That, pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this local state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date cited below, unless this local state of disaster is continued by Resolution of the Hays County Commissioners Court; and
- 3) That, pursuant to §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 promptly with the Hays County Clerk; and
- 4) That, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Hays County Emergency Management Plan;
- 5) That this Proclamation is being declared for the purpose of: a) continued coordination of a public response to COVID – 19, and b) mobilizing local resources to continue monitoring and responding to the threats created by COVID - 19; and
- 6) That this Declaration shall take effect immediately upon its execution by the Hays County Judge, as is evidenced by his duly authorized signature, below.

ORDERED this the 15th day of March 2020.

Ruben Becerra
County Judge
Hays County, Texas

ATTEST:

Elaine Cardenas, MBA, PhD
County Clerk
Hays County, Texas

