



Declaration of Local Disaster and Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubel Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, there have been 194 confirmed positive cases in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 20, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the crisis is now a pandemic after it has infected nearly 255,305 people around the world and attributed as the cause of death for approximately 10,444 worldwide. In the United States, approximately 14,631+ cases have been confirmed; and

WHEREAS, the virus is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever, similar to the influenza where in severe cases it can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties according to WHO; and

WHEREAS, there are those with those symptoms who have traveled to or been in contact with an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the disease can be fatal but only in older individuals and those with other medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill; and

WHEREAS, due to pandemic, President Donald J. Trump announced a month-long travel restriction to several countries confirmed to have cases of the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 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, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an Executive Order (No. GA-08) related to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. We are requesting all county residents to adhere to said Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has invoked the Stafford Act, which will allow state and local governments to access federal disaster relief funds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge is designated as the Emergency Management Director of Guadalupe County, and may exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code provides that the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision may declare a state of local disaster; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency, 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 authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the County's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, Kyle Kutscher, the County Judge of Guadalupe County 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 impacted by COVID-19;

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

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for Guadalupe County, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and Texas Government Code Section 418.108(a).
2. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not

more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Guadalupe County.

3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of emergency and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the county emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, and locating those who do not do comply with the County rules.
6. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the **20th day of March 2020**.



Kyle Kutscher
Guadalupe County Judge

ATTEST:



Teresa Kiel
Guadalupe County Clerk

