



STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF JASPER

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DECLARATION OF DISASTER

IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF JASPER, BE IT KNOWN:

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel (new) 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 or death; 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 have spread into and throughout the United States and now recommends against gatherings of 50 people or more; and

WHEREAS, approximately 189,452 cases of COVID-19 have been reported globally, with approximately 5,204 COVID-19 cases in the United States and approximately 97 cases in the State of Texas, resulting in at least 7,505 global deaths and 92 deaths of American citizens thus far; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a Proclamation declaring a state of disaster in all 254 counties within the State of Texas, due to the imminent threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, United States President Donald J. Trump declared a National State of Emergency for all states and jurisdictions within the United States of America, due to the imminent threat posed by COVID-19, and on March 16, 2020, the President recommended that citizens refrain from gathering in groups of 10 people or more; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another, and as far as 6 feet apart, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and that mortality rates for citizens aged 65 and older are estimated to be 50 percent; 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 risks, and promote the health and safety of all residents throughout Jasper County; and

WHEREAS, Jasper County will work collaboratively with all municipalities, school districts and other local, State and federal entities as necessary to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and contagion of COVID-19 throughout Jasper County, the Southeast Texas Region and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens, and are hereby ordered.

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


- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Jasper County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Jasper County, Texas.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Jasper County Emergency Management Plan. Jasper County may adopt rules to protect the health of persons throughout the County, and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other medical treatment or medical laboratory testing centers pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 122.006.

ORDERED, this __17th__ day of March, 2020.

DEBBIE NEWMAN, COUNTY CLERK
JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS

FILED MAR 17 2020

BY 
DEPUTY


Mark W. Allen, County Judge
Jasper County, Texas