

PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated as COVID-19, began to spread throughout the world and now has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Ellis County Emergency Operations Plan defines a disaster as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or man-made cause; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster allows the County Judge to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, mitigate risk, and promote the health and safety of the residents of Ellis County; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 in an attempt to prevent its spread throughout Ellis County, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional measures that prevent or control the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, to protect the lives and health of Ellis County citizens, in accordance with President Trump and Governor Abbott's emergency declarations, Ellis County will follow suit to mitigate and reduce risks of exposure to COVID-19 in our communities; and

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

1. A local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Ellis County, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108 (a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to section 418.108 (b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster for 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 Ellis County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108 (c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of the local state of disaster for 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 of a local state of disaster activates the Ellis County Emergency Management Plan.
5. Pursuant to the Texas Government Code, the Ellis County Judge, Office of Emergency Management, and Local Health Authority strongly urge compliance with the following: For the next eight (8) weeks following the date of this proclamation, all gatherings should adhere to the most current recommendations promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Organizers (whether groups or individuals) are urged to cancel or postpone in-person events that expect a gathering of fifty (50) or more people.
6. This proclamation shall take effect immediately.

DECLARED this 17th day of March, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.



Todd Little
Todd Little, Ellis County Judge

Attest:

Krystal Valdez
Krystal Valdez
Ellis County Clerk