

ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER FOR FALLS COUNTY

March 21, 2020

Whereas on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director 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

There is no known cure for the virus; and

The only defense to the virus is to prevent the spread of the virus; and

Whereas on March 13, 2020, the United States President declared a National State of Emergency to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

Whereas on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a Proclamation declaring that the COVID-19 virus poses an imminent threat of disaster to the citizens of the State of Texas and further declared a State of Disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC calls upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps, and

Whereas on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, FALLS COUNTY JUDGE, JAY T. ELLIOTT, DECLARE pursuant to the authority granted by the Texas Disaster Act of the Texas Government Code Chapter 418, as follows:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Falls County, Texas pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code;
2. By this declaration, Falls County's Emergency Management Plan is hereby activated, and all other statutory powers vested in me and all officers of Falls County to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration shall also activate all recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans;
3. By this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat be suspended for the duration of this declaration and any extension thereof;

4. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of the Texas Government Code Chapter 418, I shall exercise any and all necessary powers set out thereunder and I hereby authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivision to assist in Falls County's response to this disaster;

5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the law of the State of Texas, Falls County may take all legal actions necessary to protect the health of persons in Falls County, Texas;

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED THAT: there be no social gatherings of more than 10 persons in Falls County, including service organizations, church functions, sporting activities, gym's, fitness centers and/or civic functions. This does not include all business activities or other essential services.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED THAT: that all public and private schools in the County be closed;

8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED that a curfew be imposed on all persons 17 years of age and younger in Falls County after 9:00 p.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian;

9. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND DECREED All bars and restaurants in the County are to close except for takeout service;

Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration and Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Falls County Clerk. Pursuant to section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of local disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this Declaration and Order unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Falls County, Texas.

This Declaration and Order is adopted this 20th day of March 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and all aspects and requirements set forth herein are effective immediately thereafter.


Jay T. Elliott
Falls County Judge

