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LAWSON
CLERK COUNTY COURT
HEMPHILL COUNTY TEXAS
Lina Johnson

**COUNTY OF HEMPHILL, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 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, Hemphill County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY COUNTY JUDGE GEORGE BRIANT OF HEMPHILL COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for HEMPHILL COUNTY, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108 (a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That 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 approved by the Commissioners Court of Hemphill County, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108 (c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108 (d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Hemphill County, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, regulating ingress and egress from the County, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.

SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:


- To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.
- To the greatest extent possible, all businesses in Hemphill County shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines, including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public. Businesses are also strongly urged to maximize telecommuting and discourage nonessential employee travel. Businesses shall monitor the health and well-being of their employees on a daily basis and take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in the workplace.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the Governor, President and the CDC, every person in Hemphill County shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- The Governors latest Executive Order GA 14, issued on March 31, 2020, specifically included religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship as essential services. I would strongly encourage our religious institutions to comply with the CDC social gatherings guidelines and continue to provide religious and worship services by video and /or teleconference.
- All public or private gatherings of more than 10 people occurring outside a single household or residence are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence. This prohibition includes all social and non-social gatherings.
- Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and bars, may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.
- Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this Order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for an end-of-life event, as allowed by the facility.
- If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home for 14 days until or unless otherwise directed by the Local Health Authority. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community functions during the isolation period.
- Governmental entities in Hemphill County are encouraged to maintain essential services and infrastructure necessary for the public good and safety while complying with the spirit of this Order as much as practicable in their continued daily operations.
- Hemphill County residents are **strongly encouraged** to comply with the orders, directives and guidelines that have been issued by President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

SECTION 7. In accordance with Texas Government Code 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SECTION 8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 9. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this 1st day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Bryant". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

County Judge
Hemphill County, Texas