

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF LEE

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government has declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide public health disaster as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government code Chapter 418 gives the County Judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county "if the threat is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which the COVID-19 Coronavirus is spreading constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of a potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance;

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Paul Fischer, County Judge of Lee County, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of spreading of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in Lee County, Texas, based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

Order No.1

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas **shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.**

- Order No. 2 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people **shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this order.**
- Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people **shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.**
- Order No. 4 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, **schools shall temporarily close.**

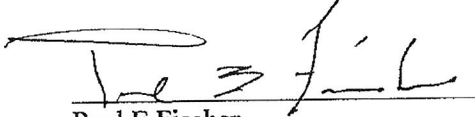
This order does not prohibit people from visiting of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. **All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.** For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this order will expire.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the Lee County Commissioners Court.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that a violation of this Disaster Declaration may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 20th day of March, 2020.


Paul E Fischer
Lee County Judge

Filed with the County Clerk of Lee County on 20th day of March, 2020.

FILED AND RECORDED

MAR 20 2020



Sharon Blasig
SHARON BLASIG
COUNTY CLERK, LEE COUNTY, TEXAS