

**HOUSTON COUNTY ORDER UNDER COUNTY JUDGE  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH  
HOUSTON COUNTY EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS- CoV2 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 13, 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**, on April 2, 2020, stating that extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Houston County, I, as Judge of Houston County, issued a proclamation declaring a state of disaster for Houston County, Texas;

**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;

**SECTION 1.** That this Order under Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and filed with the County Clerk.

Pursuant to the Governor of Texas executive order to go into effect on May 1, 2020. In alignment with the Governor's Order, Houston County shall hereby follow the directives set forth.

**Museums and libraries can open May 1 but NO hands-on exhibits. Outdoor sports activities can resume but with only four people at one time.**

**Churches can begin slowly expanding services but continue practicing social distancing.**

**All retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters and malls can open by said date with only 25 % capacity.**

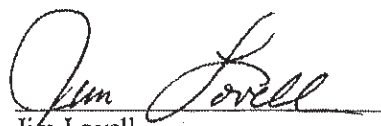
**Barbershops, hair salons, bars, clubs, and gyms are NOT approved to open at this time.**

- To engage in outdoor activity is encouraged, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined by CDC which includes not to congregate in groups of 10 or more and to remain at least 6' apart, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running or riding a bicycle;
- To care for a family member or pet in another household.

However, people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

**SECTION 2.** This order begins May 1, 2020 at 12:01 am and will be continued until expiration of the Governor's Executive Order.

**ORDERED** this 28th day of April, 2020.

  
Jim Lovell  
Houston County

ATTEST:

  
Terri Meadows, County Clerk