

**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;

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has acknowledged that counties may need to enact more stringent measures to address this public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Houston County has no confirmed cases at this time, but expect cases of COVID-19 in Houston County to be forthcoming and Texas number of cases to continue to grow:

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE JUDGE OF HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS THAT THE CITIZENS SHALL COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES ONLY:**

**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.

**SECTION 2.** That I, Jim Lovell, County Judge of Houston County, Texas, have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19;

Pursuant to the Governor of Texas executive order issued March 31, 2020 Houston County residents shall limit travel to obtain or perform essential services. (see website below)

<https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>

**Per Texas Executive Order GA-14 the following are NOT considered “essential services”:**

- **Cosmetology Salons**
  - **Gyms**
  - **Massage Establishments**
  - **Tattoo Studios**
  - **Piercing Studios**
  - **Eating/Drinking Inside of Bars/Restaurants/Food Courts**
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- **The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of the executive order;**
  - **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.

Again, for all other essential services check the following website:

**<https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>**

**SECTION 3.** This order begins April 14, 2020 at 11:59 pm and expires on April 28, 2020 at 11:59 pm and will be continued/or ended at the next meeting of the Houston County Commissioners Court.

**ORDERED this 14th day of April, 2020.**

  
Jim Lovell  
Houston County Judge