
ORDER AND DECLARATION OF THE JONES COUNTY JUDGE AMENDING THE JONES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT'S DISASTER DECLARATION AND ORDER OF MARCH 30, 2020, AND DECLARING A CONTINUED STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR JONES COUNTY, TEXAS, WITH A NEW PROVISION, SUCH BEING AMENDMENT #5.

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General 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

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced COVID-19 as a public disaster and declared a statewide emergency in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS since March 13, 2020, Governor of the State of Texas ("Governor") has issued multiple Executive Orders pertaining to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services has declared a public health disaster for the entire state of Texas,

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Commissioners Court for Jones County declared A STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR JONES COUNTY, TEXAS;

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

POSTED NOTICE
DATE 4-6-20 TIME 4:54 pm
Lillian Jennings
JONES COUNTY CLERK, JONES CO., TX
BY: _____

WHEREAS, large gatherings of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, Section 418.108 authorizes the County Judge of JONES County to declare a local state of disaster, and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.004(1) of the Texas Government Code defines disaster to be the "occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency;" and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and promote the health and safety of individuals in JONES County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of JONES County has determined, from statements and information provided by the Office of the Texas Governor, JONES County Emergency Management, Texas Department of State Health Services, the Health Authority of Jones County, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas that extraordinary measures must be taken in order to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 in JONES County, Texas; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED and ORDERED pursuant to the authority granted in the Texas Disaster Act of Texas Government Code Chapter 418, as follows:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for JONES County, Texas pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code;
2. By this declaration, JONES County's Emergency Management Plan is activated and all other statutory powers vested in me and all officers of JONES 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 authority granted to the JONES County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 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 subdivisions to assist in JONES County's response to this disaster;
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, JONES County may take all legal actions necessary to protect the health of persons in JONES County, Texas;
6. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this 5th Amended 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 JONES County, Texas;
7. 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 JONES County Clerk.
8. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms; provided however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this Order.
9. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
10. In addition to these guidelines, Citizens are strongly encouraged to exercise social distancing of at least 6 feet, regularly wash hands in soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and to not come to the Jones County Courthouse unless absolutely necessary.
11. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, schools shall temporarily close.
12. IT IS ORDERED THAT persons coming to the Jones County Courthouse is discouraged. THEREFORE, the Courthouse is closed to the public except with an appointment as approved by the appropriate county office. Persons coming to the Jones County Courthouse must enter at the courthouse basement, south entrance. From there they contact the respective county office and the office decides, based on its own discretion, how to proceed with such person. A person shall not proceed to a county office from the basement until a representative of such county office comes and takes them to the county office. Each county office may allow a person to enter the courthouse to do business at that county official's office. The person shall leave after completing his business with that courthouse office.

13. The Jones County Commissioners Court shall be allowed to hold virtual meetings, either through telephone or videoconferencing consistent with the Governor's order of March 16, 2020, that suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act including the require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. The Commissioners Court is required to allow the following:

Members of the public will be entitled to participate and address the governmental body during any telephonic or videoconference meeting.

To hold a telephonic or videoconference meeting, a governmental body must post a written notice that gives the public a way to participate remotely, such as a toll-free dial-in number, and that includes an electronic copy of any agenda packet that officials will consider at the meeting.

A governmental body must provide the public with access to a recording of any telephonic or videoconference meeting.

14. Jones County grants an addition 80 hours of sick leave if such sick leave is related to the COVID-19 virus AND if 1) a health care provider states the employee is to remain away from his or her work for a period of time of up to 10 working days OR 2) that employee's elected official approves such leave and the elected official believes that such sick leave is related to COVID-19 virus. Such sick leave must be otherwise consistent with current employee policy manual guidelines.
15. The Courthouse will NOT be open as a shelter in the event of a severe weather event.
16. In order to suppress the spread of COVID-19 virus to Jones County residents, the Courthouse shall be closed to all individuals that are not residents of Jones County unless such individual is an officer of the court or such individual is to be present at the Jones County Courthouse for a scheduled hearing or other court proceeding on that date regarding a pending criminal or civil case or such individual is to be present at the Jones County Courthouse to do work on a pending or anticipated criminal case in which they are a witness or if such individual is to be present at the Jones County Courthouse to provide goods or services to an office inside the Jones County Courthouse. Such individual shall provide evidence of his or her residency upon entrance to the Jones County Courthouse.
17. Persons who are sick and currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms have a responsibility to take actions necessary to protect the physical health and well-being of others.

Any person who is sick or currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, is hereby ORDERED to stay home until such time that:

- he or she has had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine

- that reduces fevers; and
- his or her other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath has improved); and
- at least 14 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

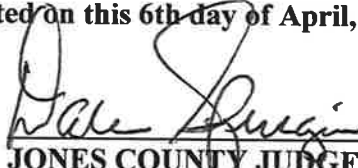
This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

If any person in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, all persons in the household are hereby ORDERED to stay home. Members of the household may not travel to work, school, or any other community function until released from quarantine by the health authority. This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

18. People shall avoid public auctions, estate sales, garage sales or the like, game rooms and petting zoos.
19. All persons in Jones County are hereby ORDERED to stay home, except when performing or traveling to Essential Services or Activities. "Essential Services" shall be defined as set out in the Governor's Executive Order of March 31, 2020, designated as GA-14. Essential Activities means any action or effort that is necessary for gainful employment or for the financial welfare of their family. It also means any activity necessary for obtaining medical care, food, shelter or clothing that may be necessary for the safety and well-being of themselves or their family. It also means any action necessary for the preservation of a person's mental or spiritual health, including attending any religious gathering. Essential Activities also include engaging in an outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, bike-riding, hunting, fishing, playing golf, or other similar outdoor activities, but such activities shall only be engaged in with members of the same household.
20. The County will promptly provide copies of this Order by posting it on the County's website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.
21. That a violation of this order shall be punishable as authorized by Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days. That this declaration also hereby authorizes the use of any other lawfully available enforcement tools.

22. In the event the conditions improve between date of adoption and the end of the effective date of this Declaration and Order, the County Judge shall reevaluate this Declaration and Order at that time.

This Declaration and Order is adopted on this 6th day of April, 2020, and is effective immediately.



JONES COUNTY JUDGE