

**ORDER AND DECLARATION OF THE JONES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT EXTENDING THE COUNTY JUDGE'S DISASTER DECLARATION AND ORDER OF APRIL 6, 2020 AS AMENDED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT HEREIN, AND DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR JONES COUNTY, TEXAS, SUCH BEING AMENDMENT #6.**

**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 Abbot 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

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

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2020, County Judge DALE SPURGIN issued a disaster declaration Amendment # 5 an order restricting access to the Jones County Courthouse; restricting the number of patrons in restaurants, bars and certain other businesses; and placing restrictions on persons with symptoms and confirmed cases; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the Governor's request and the fact that there are now reported cases of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 in JONES County, there is the need to take further action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF JONES COUNTY, TEXAS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108:**

1. That the local state of disaster and public health emergency declared for JONES County, Texas, by the County Judge is hereby EXTENDED, and that the County Judge's Order is ADOPTED AND RESTATED except as AMENDED herein by this Court based on new developments. A local state of disaster and public health emergency in JONES County is DECLARED.
2. Although applicable to JONES County, nothing in this order is intended to prohibit or shall prohibit a city in this County from ordering any measure allowed by subsections Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, including stricter measures than are contained herein.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the County's emergency management plan.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, schools shall temporarily close.
9. 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.
10. The Jones County Commissioner's 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 Commissioner's 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.
11. 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.

12. The Courthouse will NOT be open as a shelter in the event of a severe weather event.
13. 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. Regardless of whether a person entering the Jones County Courthouse is a resident of Jones County or not, all persons are required to have an appointment before they can enter into the Jones County Courthouse under the provisions set out above in Paragraph 9.
14. 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.

15. People shall avoid public auctions, estate sales, garage sales or the like, game rooms and petting zoos.
16. 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.

17. All outdoor burning is prohibited in Jones County to minimize the exposure of first responders to COVID 19 for unnecessary responses to incidents that can be avoided or delayed.

This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for: (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or, (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048, Natural Resource Code, and meets the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resource Code.


The outdoor burning of any waste, whether household or not, is prohibited **unless it is contained within a covered barrel.**

Private outdoor cooking is allowed if restricted to a covered, enclosed, cooking devices such as smokers or gas grills. Private outdoor cooking is also allowed only if adult supervision is provided and such cooking device is not left unattended for any reason. Private outdoor cooking is allowed if the cooking device is stationary and not located in an area containing easily burned materials such as grass or brush. Private outdoor cooking is also allowed only if water is available and the area around the cooking device is soaked before use. Fire, coals, or other burning embers should be extinguished when cooking is completed.

18. To the extent that these restrictions are in conflict with any Executive Order issued by the Governor but only to the extent that such conflict restricts essential services allowed by an Executive Order or this order allows gatherings prohibited by an Executive Order, that provision of such Executive Order governs and supersedes the restriction set out herein. The remainder of this Declaration for Jones County shall remain in effect.
19. This ORDER shall become effective IMMEDIATELY, and shall end on **April 30, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**
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. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.


ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF JONES COUNTY, TEXAS on this the 13th day of April, 2020.

  
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DALE SPURGIN  
COUNTY JUDGE  
JONES COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

 Deputy Clerk   
JONES County Clerk



**POSTED NOTICE**  
**DATE** 4/13/20 **TIME** 4:01pm  
  
**JONES COUNTY CLERK, JONES CO., TX**  
**BY:** 