

Jones County

Press Release: Amended Disaster Declaration #7

On April 28, 2020, the Commissioners Court of Jones County has approved amendment #7 extending the Disaster Declaration Order and Public Health Emergency until May 15, 2020.

Although this Order amends a prior order and releases restrictions the Commissioners Court has set in the past, the restrictions set out in the Executive Orders issued by the Governor continue and all residents of Jones County, and the State of Texas, shall abide by such restrictions or be subject to the penalties set out herein.

Amendment #6 will expire at 11:59 pm on April 30, 2020.

Amendment #7 will activate at 12:01 am on May 1, 2020.

The Jones County Courthouse will continue to conduct business by phone, appointment, or entering the Courthouse basement south entrance and utilizing the phone in the basement to contact the office that can assist you.

The County will continue the 80 hours of additional sick leave for COVID 19 related illness for County employees.

The Jones County Courthouse will NOT be open as a shelter in the event of a severe weather event.

The burn ban will be lifted at 11:59 pm on April 30, 2020. Residents are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when conducting any controlled burn and to contact Jones County Dispatch 325 823 4604 before starting to prevent false alarms that would dispatch fire departments.

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 County's restriction.

Dale Spurgin
County Judge
Jones County, Texas

ORDER AND DECLARATION OF THE JONES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT EXTENDING THE COUNTY'S DISASTER DECLARATION AND ORDER OF APRIL 13, 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 #7.

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, 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.

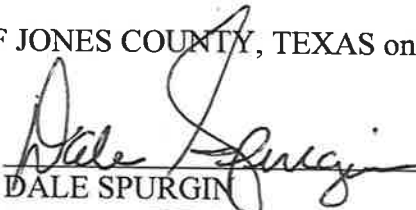
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF JONES COUNTY, TEXAS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108:

1. That the local state of disaster and public health emergency declared for JONES County, Texas, is hereby EXTENDED, and that the County'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. 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.
3. 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.
4. Although this Order amends a prior order and releases restrictions the Commissioners Court has set in the past, the restrictions set out in the Executive Orders issued by the Governor continue and all residents of Jones County, and the state of Texas, shall abide by such restrictions or be subject to the penalties set out herein.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. The Courthouse will NOT be open as a shelter in the event of a severe weather event.
8. 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.
9. **This ORDER shall become effective at 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1, 2020, and shall end on May 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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 28th day of April, 2020.


DALE SPURGIN
COUNTY JUDGE
JONES COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:


JONES County Clerk



POSTED NOTICE

DATE 4-28-20 TIME 12:15 pm


JONES COUNTY CLERK, JONES CO., TX

BY. _____