

RANDALL COUNTY JUDGE

ORDER RELATING TO COUNTYWIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 DISASTER

WHEREAS, a pandemic has been declared by the World Health Organization regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus and its resulting illness, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions are at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that symptoms of COVID-19 can range from very mild to severe, including illness resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Texas declared a state of disaster because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, among the President's coronavirus guidelines for America issued on March 16, 2020, and renewed on March 30, 2020, citizens are encouraged to work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Randall County Judge declared a local state of disaster because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued an executive order in response to COVID-19 that every person in Texas avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people and closing schools; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court extended the County Judge's declaration of disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court entered an Order Closing County Facilities to the Public to Control the Spread of COVID-19 and Authorizing Compensation for Employees, which was set to expire on the earlier of April 3, 2020, when the Governor's March 19, 2020, executive order is lifted or when the order is lifted or modified by action of the Randall County Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued an executive order in response to COVID-19 that extended school closures to May 4, 2020 and ordered every person in Texas to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court approved the Health Order from the Amarillo Area Public Health District issued on March 30, 2020, which is attached as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, child-care facilities may also be closed in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public emergency; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of COVID-19 is an unforeseen circumstance that could not, through the use of reasonably diligent thought and attention, have been taken into account in the current budget and limiting its spread is a matter of grave public necessity; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Sections 418.108 and 418.1015 authorize the Randall County Judge to declare a local state of disaster and exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a 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 Randall County; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of the County of Randall, Texas has determined from the statements and information provided by the Office of the President of the United States, the United States Centers for Disease Control, the Office of the Texas Governor, the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo Area Public Health District, City of Amarillo Public Health Department personnel, health professionals and other emergency service agencies serving Randall County, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas, that extraordinary measures must be taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 in Randall County, Texas and to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE RANDALL COUNTY JUDGE:

- A. In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President and Governor to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Randall County shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- B. "Essential services" shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM maintains an online list of essential services, as specified in the Governor's Executive Order GA 14 issued March 31, 2020.
- C. In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- D. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC and the Governor, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this order.
- E. This order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce

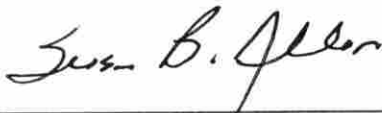
the transmission of COVID- 19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

- F. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC and the Governor, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- G. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC and the Governor, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

This order is effective April 3, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., and shall continue in effect until the earlier of the date the Texas Governor rescinds his March 13, 2020 declaration of disaster or when the Randall County Judge or Randall County Commissioners Court rescinds or modifies this order.

Ordered this 2 day of April, 2020 at 2:45 o'clock P.m.

ATTEST:



Susan Allen, County Clerk




Ernie Houdashell, County Judge