

Van Zandt County



DON KIRKPATRICK
COUNTY JUDGE

Christie Taylor
Court Administrator
121 East Dallas, Room 206
Canton, Texas 75103

FILED FOR RECORD
2020 APR 15 AM 11:55
SUSAN STRICKLAND
COUNTY CLERK, VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS
VOICE: (903) 567-4071
FAX: (903) 567-7216
www.vanzandtcounty.org

2ND AMENDED PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER

BE IT REMEMBERED:

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 outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness and in some cases death; 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 and advised countries to prepare for the containment, including active surveillance, early 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, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; 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 March 19, 2020 the Governor of the State of Texas signed an Executive Order to protect the citizens of the State of Texas, limiting gatherings to 10 people or less, no dining in restaurants or bars, closing of gyms, no visiting at nursing homes or retirement homes, and all schools in the state temporarily closed; and

WHEREAS, Van Zandt County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Association (SBA) has designated COVID-19 as a qualifying event for the provision of Economic Injury Disaster Loans for businesses and private non-profits in affected communities; and

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

WHEREAS, over 16,621 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 225 deaths; and

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

WHEREAS, unless the actions as hereby provided are immediately initiated, avoidable serious illness and deaths could occur; and

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

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

WHEREAS, a disaster is defined as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or man-made cause; and

WHEREAS, a man-made cause may include an epidemic or other health emergency; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease and mitigate the risk to, and promote the health and safety of, the resident of Van Zandt County; and

WHEREAS, the measure identified in the Proclamation are designed to prevent deaths in Van Zandt County; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in Van Zandt County and the region could potentially signal that transmission of the virus may no longer be limited to travel to outbreak areas or contact with travelers who have visited outbreak areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF VAN ZANDT COUNTY:

Section 1. Declaration of Local State of Disaster. A local state of disaster due to this health emergency is hereby declared by the County Judge of the County of Van Zandt, pursuant to Section 418.108 of the Texas Disaster Act.

Section 2. Duration of Local State of Disaster. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Disaster Act, the local state of disaster due to this health emergency issued in this Proclamation shall continue until revoked, but in no event will it exceed a period longer than seven (7) days of the date hereof, unless continued or renewed by the consent of the Commissioner’s Court of the County of Van Zandt.

Section 3. Publicity and Filing. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

Section 4. Activation of the County Emergency Management Plan. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this health emergency activates the Van Zandt County Emergency Management Plan.

Section 5. Protective Control Measures and Facilities. Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Van Zandt County is authorized to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in Van Zandt County, including quarantine rules to protect its residents against communicable disease and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals.

Section 6. Limit on Large Gatherings. Pursuant to the Executive Order of the Governor of the State of Texas, issued March 19th 2020, Van Zandt County shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Section 7. Engaging in Other Essential Outdoor Activities. Provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirement of six feet, outdoor activities are permitted for example, hunting, walking, biking, hiking, running, fishing, golfing and tennis, unless Governor Abbott's order supersedes this order.

Section 8. Social Distancing. Pursuant to the Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Individuals shall maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from others.

Section 9. Closing of Businesses. Pursuant to an advisory list from the Department of Homeland Security, all nonessential businesses shall temporarily close to the public at this time. Only businesses identified as essential by the Department of Homeland Security may remain open.

Please refer to the following website for a listing of essential businesses.

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

Section 10. Effective Date. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately upon its issuance by the County Judge of Van Zandt County.

Section 11. Penalties. Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 418.173, failure to comply with this or any executive order issued during the COVID-19 Disaster, is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

Section 12. Resolution of Conflicts. Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 418.108, this order applies to both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county, and if this order conflicts with an order of any municipality, this order is controlling.

I HEREBY DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER WITHIN VAN ZANDT COUNTY to continue until April 29th, 2020 subject to the continuation or renewal of the Commissioner's Court of the County of Van Zandt upon the expiration of seven (7) days as provided by the Texas Government Code Section 418.108.

ACCORDINGLY, I further proclaim activation of the County Emergency Management Plan and the activation of all other charter, statutory, and ordinance powers vested in me and all officers of the County of Van Zandt to act in the premises and for the purposes stated. Prompt and general publicity is hereby proclaimed and ordered as to the issuance of this Proclamation.

ORDERED this 15th day of April, 2020 in the County of Van Zandt in witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name.



Don Kirkpatrick, County Judge



Brandon Brown, Commissioner, Pct. 1



Virgil Melton, Jr., Commissioner, Pct. 2



Keith Pearson, Commissioner, Pct. 3



Tim West, Commissioner, Pct. 4

Filed with me, Susan Strickland, County Clerk on this 15th day of April, 2020 by County Judge whose signature I hereby certify is true and genuine, with general publicity of the foregoing Proclamation being put into effect the same date as the signing thereof.



Susan Strickland, County Clerk