



**Wise County Disaster Declaration and Executive Order  
Wise County Commissioners Court**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Wise County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wise County Office of Emergency Management and the Wise County Emergency Medical Services has established emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and emergency response plans for this type of health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, this International Health Emergency has created a serious health emergency requiring the issuance of a Disaster Declaration and the implementation of the Wise County Emergency Operations Plan, the Wise County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, and associated Emergency Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor issued a statewide executive order on March 19, 2020, designed to create social distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Judge issued a local disaster declaration and executive order on March 23, 2020, designed to enhance the Governor's executive order and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, a state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and Commissioners Court Order No. 100; and

**WHEREAS**, the surrounding geographic area around Wise County has seen a significant increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Wise County has a confirmed case of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Wise County wishes to further limit the potential spread of COVID-19 in our communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, this Disaster Declaration shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020 and continue for not more than seven days unless authorized by the Wise County Commissioners Court:

1. A Declaration of local state of disaster activates the Wise County Emergency Operations Plan.
2. This Declaration urges all persons residing in Wise County to adhere to the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, which states that persons should stay home as much as possible and avoid discretionary travel, shopping, and social visits.
3. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order concerning gatherings, his Declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to no more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. For purposes herein, a gathering is any indoor or outdoor gathering that brings together or is likely to bring together more than 10 people at the same time in a single space where people are present and within six feet of one another, without regard to the purpose of the gathering.

This Declaration does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as different floors of a multi-level office, residential building, or hotel, so long as not more than 10 people are present in any single space at the same time. This declaration also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where more than 10 people may be present at different times during the day, so long as more than 10 people are not present in the space at the same time.

This declaration does not make a distinction between types of gatherings, i.e. social, community, or recreational.

4. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order concerning restaurants/bars, this Declaration orders that restaurants and beverage bars with or without drive-in or drive-through services; drive-in restaurants; drive-through restaurants; or microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-in or drive-through services, if permitted by law.

5. This Declaration orders that the public cannot occupy nor may patrons be permitted to occupy the following: bars, lounges, taverns, commercial amusement establishments, bingo halls, theaters, movie theaters, gymnastic studios, martial arts studios, gyms, private clubs, hair and nail salons and barber shops, estheticians and related personal care businesses, spas, massage parlors, tattoo and piercing parlors, tanning salons, residential meeting spaces, event centers, hotel meeting spaces and ballrooms, outdoor plazas and markets, malls and retail stores that do not sell essential household goods.

Stores that do not sell essential household goods (and other businesses where possible) are encouraged to offer online/phone orders and fulfillment by curbside pickup/delivery/mail.

6. This Declaration allows the following entities to continue doing business as long as they implement and enforce social distancing: grocery stores, stores selling essential household goods, stores selling hunting/food gathering equipment and supplies, convenience and package stores, pharmacies and drug stores, day care facilities, medical facilities, non-profit service providers, homeless and emergency shelters, office buildings, essential government buildings, airports and transit facilities, transportation systems, residential buildings and hotels, and manufacturing and distribution facilities

In all such locations, especially in retailers selling essential household goods with immense public demand, those retailers shall take proactive steps to provide, regulate and encourage social distancing, sanitization, and limiting opportunities for community spread. This can include measures such as limiting number of people in a store at one time, increasing online/curbside/delivery options, regularly sanitizing shopping carts, etc. Where possible, a tracking list of individuals present and their contact information shall be maintained.

7. Retail suppliers shall use commonsense rationing of household products and groceries that are in limited supply.
8. Notwithstanding the above restriction, this Declaration is not intended to apply to any business operations delivering essential services. Essential Services means services, by whomsoever rendered, and whether rendered to the government or to any other person, the interruption of which would endanger life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population. Essential services as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum dated March 19, 2020 may continue to their operation appropriately modified to account for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) workforce and consumer protection guidance.

9. If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function until cleared by a medical professional.

10. Persons who are sick and currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, even if they have not been tested 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:

- a) He or she has had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; and
- b) His or her other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath has improved); and
- c) 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.

11. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173 and Commissioners Court Order No. 100, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00.

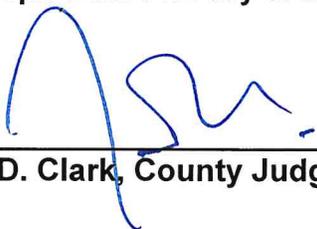
12. This Declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

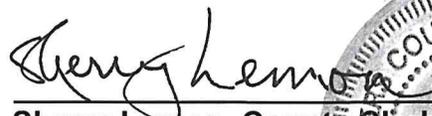
13. This Declaration incorporates the attached table, Disaster Restrictions, as if set for verbatim herein.

14. This Declaration shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

**The purpose of this order is for emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and response plans to this public health emergency;**

**Adopted the 31st day of March, 2020.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. D. Clark, County Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Lemon, County Clerk



The seal is circular with a five-pointed star in the center. The text around the star reads "COMMISSIONER COUNTY OF TARRANT TEXAS" and "COURT \* TX".