



MEDINA COUNTY, TEXAS

Commissioners Court

1893 Jail Building
1502 Avenue K
Room 201
Hondo, Texas 78861
(830) 741-6020
(830) 741-6025 Fax

Chris Schuchart
County Judge

Timothy Neuman
Commissioner Precinct No. 1

Larry Sittre
Commissioner Precinct No. 2

David Lynch
Commissioner Precinct No. 3

Jerry Beck
Commissioner Precinct No. 4

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, I, Chris Schuchart, Medina County Judge, with the approval by vote of the Medina County Commissioners' Court am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code, Chapter 418) to declare a public health emergency and order the implementation of certain directives as further set out herein; and

WHEREAS, 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, 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, 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 12, 2020, officials from a surrounding County and City confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the first case of travel related COVID-19 was confirmed in Medina County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Medina County will continue to work collaboratively with the Cities of Medina County, Medina County employees, as well as the local health authority, to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Medina County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist the County's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-08 which the Medina County Commissioners' Court adopted on March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order, GA-14 which cancelled GA-08 and placed additional requirements on the work and social aspects of the lives of the citizens of Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF MEDINA:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Medina County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b), of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Medina County Commissioners Court.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency 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 and public health emergency activates Medina County's emergency management plan as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Medina County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease throughout Medina County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Medina County and any impacted areas.
6. It is ordered that all persons in Medina County follow the Executive Order GA-14 as attached hereto as Exhibit "1"; all other orders previously in place as issued by the Governor of the State of Texas and, to include all orders issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
7. It is ordered that persons in Medina County shall follow the rules as set out in the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "2".
8. It is ordered that Medina County Justice of the Peace Judges delay any eviction hearings until this order expires to prevent the possible displacement of renters due to a public health emergency.
9. It is ordered that any foreclosure proceedings initiated by the County shall be temporarily suspended during the term of this order to prevent displacement of occupants during the public health emergency.
10. It is Ordered that all privately owned recreational parks that are open to the public shall be closed effective at 12:01AM, April 10, 2020. This includes that there will be no gatherings at any river crossings on county roads.
11. It is ordered that all Golf Courses in Medina County shall be closed effective at 12:01AM, April 10, 2020.

12. Any individual found to be in violation of this order may be issued a fine of up to \$1,000.00 and confinement in jail of up to 6 months.
13. As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Medina, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.



DECLARED this 9th day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Schuchert".

Medina County Judge

Exhibit "1"



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 31, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020


Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

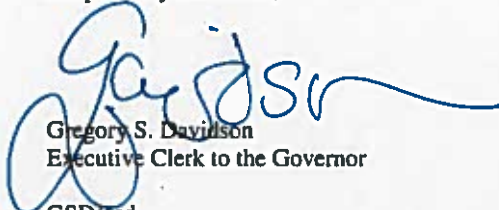
Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services
and activities during the COVID-19 disaster.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor
GSD/gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
March 31, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 14

*Relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities
during the COVID-19 disaster.*

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to the COVID-19 disaster, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, which called upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-08 is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, absent further action by the governor; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the President announced that, based on advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx say that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, which provides an advisory list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, for state agencies and their employees and agents, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas has advised that local restrictions issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster do not apply to restrict the conduct of state business; and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

WHEREAS, all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the "governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business ... if strict compliance with the provisions ... would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the "governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), the "governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas 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.

"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 shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov or by visiting www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices.

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.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, 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 executive order.

This executive 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.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, 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.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order. I hereby suspend Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-08, but not Executive Orders GA-09, GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, or GA-13, and shall remain in effect and in full force until April 30, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 31st day of
March, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

ATTESTED BY:



RUTH R. HUGHS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

Exhibit "2"

Declaration regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Other Matters

- I. Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings:
 - a. This Exhibit "2" incorporates and adopts, except as where noted below, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) dated March 15, 2020.
 - b. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.
 - c. For all other gatherings social distancing protocols shall be followed as established by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than ten persons.
 - d. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
 - e. In accordance with the Guidelines from the president and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

The declaration does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services as described in the Governor's order. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice social distancing, good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this declaration will expire.

- II. All Medina County Courts including but not limited to County Courts (with the exception of the County Commissioners Court functioning in its administrative capacity), County Court at Law, District Court, Justice of the Peace Courts, City Municipal Courts, are directed to the protocol established jointly by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and disseminated to the courts in multiple orders since this pandemic has begun.
- III. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified that staff members working in multiple long-term care facilities can contribute to intra- and interfacility spread of COVID-19. Based on this guidance, I hereby order that any individual that provides in-person services, or is otherwise employed or staffs a long-term care facility (e.g. nursing home, or assisted living facility), and has direct patient contact shall hereafter be prohibited from working in, or visiting, more than (1) long-term care facility for any purpose as a result of the increased risk for transmission of COVID-19 to an at-risk population. The prohibition shall extend to any agency or organization who employs individuals for purposes of staffing or on a temporary basis. Notwithstanding the

forgoing, this prohibition does not, and is not intended to, impact or restrict the ability of an individual, organization or entity to operate as an exempted business under the order/declaration of the Texas Governor, but shall only restrict the ingress/egress and movement of persons into or out of more than one nursing home facility. Additionally, long term care facilities should follow all additional CDC guidance to take proactive steps to protect the health of residents and preserve the health care workforce by identifying and excluding potentially infected staff members, restricting visitation consistent with the Governor's Executive Order, ensuring early recognition of potentially infected patients, and implementing appropriate infection control measures.