

**FIRST AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL
DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and;

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott has announced a series of Executive Orders relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. The orders serve to limit public gatherings and help reduce exposure for people across the state. These orders are in accordance with federal guidelines issued by the President and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and will aid in the state's efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 Gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county if "the threat of disaster is imminent;" 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, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Palo Pinto County; and

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

WHEREAS, this Declaration activates the County's emergency management plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge and Commissioners Court have determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, and compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease. These measures include isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated. A declaration allows the request of assistance from the Governor for state resources; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge issued an Emergency Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020. Now, the County Judge and Commissioners Court hereby issue this First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency to implement additional measures to ensure the protection of the residents of Palo Pinto County; and

WHEREAS, by majority vote, the Commissioners Court by this resolution has consented to such an extension of the declaration of local disaster until rescinded or amended by the Commissioners Court; and

THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by The County Judge of Palo Pinto County that:

1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Palo Pinto County, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code.

3. This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Palo Pinto County Emergency Plan, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code.
4. This Declaration authorizes the County to commandeer or use any private property as provided by law.
5. This 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 event 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 6 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.
6. This Declaration does not make a distinction between types of gatherings, i.e. social, community or recreational.
7. This Declaration orders those restaurants 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.
8. On March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott issued an executive order directing schools to close; banning gatherings of 10 or more people and ordering restaurants to limit operations to drive-through, delivery and pick-up, and bars; closing indoor recreation facilities and other public venues; banning people from visiting nursing homes; starting midnight central standard time on Friday, March 20, 2020 and is effective until midnight April 3; and
9. This Declaration allows the following entities to continue doing business as long as they enforce social separation: grocery stores, stores selling essential household goods, farmers markets, convenience and package stores, pharmacies and drug stores, day care facilities, medical and dental facilities, veterinary services, 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.
10. Notwithstanding the above restrictions, this Declaration is not intended to apply to any business operations delivering essential services. Essential Services means services, the interruption of which would endanger life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population.
11. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
12. These restrictions set out in the attached table may be updated as allowed by law, as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of this declaration and any extension without the issuance of a new declaration.



ORDERED this the 26 day of March 2020, at 4:00 P.M.

[Signature]
Shane Long
Palo Pinto County Judge

[Signature]
Gary Glover
County Commissioner Pct 1

[Signature]
Mike Reed
County Commissioner Pct 2

[Signature]
Mike Pierce
County Commissioner Pct 3

[Signature]
Jeff Fryer
County Commissioner Pct 4

Dated this the 26th day of March, 2020

[Signature]
Janette K. Green, County Clerk
Palo Pinto County, Texas

By: _____, Deputy

FILED
At 4:05 O'Clock P M.

MAR 26 2020
[Signature]
Clerk of the County Court
Palo Pinto County, Texas
By _____ Deputy