

**COUNTY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

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, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; 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, Gonzales County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said 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 Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for GONZALES COUNTY, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless approved by the Commissioners Court of Gonzales County, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Gonzales County, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.


SECTION 6. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 50 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 50 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 50 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.

SECTION 7. 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.

SECTION 8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 9. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this 18th day of March, 2020.



Patrick C. Davis, County Judge
Gonzales County, Texas

ADDENDUM

All County buildings and offices will be closed to the general public. If there is a necessity to conduct business in person please contact that county office by phone, fax or email for further instructions. The Randle Rather Building which includes the Tax Assessor Collector's office and the County Clerk's office will conduct business through the drive through window located in the back of the building during normal business hours.

Aside from any emergency or essential necessity, all court scheduled for Gonzales County has been postponed until April 13, 2020.

Commissioners Court will continue to be held as scheduled with the exception that it will not be opened to the general public. The commissioner's court will be streamed live via Facebook until further notice. The agenda and further instructions will be posted prior to the meeting via social media allowing public comment to be received.

All declarations previously issued by the municipalities of Gonzales, Nixon, Smiley and Wealder are in effect as stated with the exception of the mass gathering size.