

**TRAVIS COUNTY  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**Recitals**

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 can range from mild to severe illness; 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, advising countries to prepare for the containment, 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, the Center 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 250 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 14 deaths; and

WHEREAS, Spring Festival is the period from early to mid-March with a high concentration of events in and around Travis County; and

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

WHEREAS unidentifiable individual infected could not be properly tracked to prevent the spread of infection; and

WHEREAS, South by Southwest (SXSW) is the largest event held during the Spring Festival period, attended by visitors from all over the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus 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; and

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2020 MAR -6 PM 5:02  
DANA DEBEAUVOIR  
TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK  
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, Section 418.108 authorizes the County Judge of a county to declare a local state of disaster, and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, prevent the spread of the disease and promote the health and safety of individuals in Travis County; and

WHEREAS, Travis County will work collaboratively with the Mayor of the City of Austin, Travis County employees as well as the local health authority to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19; and

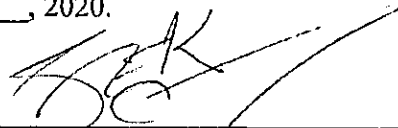
WHEREAS, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

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 in the County's response to this situation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS:**

1. That a state of disaster based on public health emergency is declared for Travis County pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of local disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, the County may take actions necessary to protect the health of persons in the County.
5. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Sarah Eckhardt, County Judge  
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County:



Michelle Boyatt for  
DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

Date: March 6, 2020