



CITY OF GREGORY

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For Immediate Release

March 20, 2020

Norma S. Garcia, City Secretary

Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to COVID-19

Today, Mayor Celestino A. Zambrano approved and signed a Declaration of Local State of Disaster. This is designed to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The City of Gregory will follow San Patricio County emergency guidelines.

All city facilities remain open for daily operations. All transactions must be done through online services and night drop. We will be monitoring our phones as well as US mail and emails. This is being done to fully protect the health and safety of our citizens, our employees and their families. Should there be a need to conduct business in person, please call ahead to make an appointment.

All activities organized by the City have been canceled until further notice. This proclaimed local state of disaster shall continue for a consecutive period, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code. All City officials and employees are authorized to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the purpose of this Order.

For information please contact Norma S. Garcia, City Secretary at 361-643-6562

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; 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 (PHEIC), 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, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak should be characterized as pandemic; 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 1,629 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 41 deaths; and

WHEREAS, President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott declared a public health disaster on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends that citizens stop handshaking, clean hands at the door, schedule regular hand washing, avoid touching faces and cover coughs and sneezes, disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly, and increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends the use of videoconferencing for meetings when possible, and adjusting or postponing large meetings or gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends citizens stay home if they are feeling sick or when they have a sick family member in their home; and

WHEREAS, households with vulnerable seniors and those with underlying health conditions should conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States could have signaled that transmission of the virus is no longer limited to those who traveled to China, or had contact with travelers who have visited China; and

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Gregory, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; 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, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including 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 and request assistance from the governor of state resources; 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

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of City of Gregory residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gregory will work collaboratively with San Patricio County 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 of Public Health Emergency, 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 Mayor 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 City's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, Celestino A. Zambrano, the Mayor of the City of Gregory have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF GREGORY:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Gregory 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 City Council.

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 City Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Gregory emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.
6. Pursuant to §122.006 [§122.005 for general law] of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.
7. The City Clerk/Secretary is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION.
8. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
9. The Local Health Authority and Director of Health may update restrictions set out in Exhibit A as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of this Declaration and any extension by the City Council without the issuance of a new Declaration.
10. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.

ORDERED this 20th day of March, 2020.



MAYOR Celestino A. Zambrano
City of Gregory, Texas

EXHIBIT A
Public Health Emergency Rules and Regulations
City of Gregory abides by guidelines implemented
County of San Patricio

Refer to Attachment
First Amended
Declaration of Local State of Disaster
Due to Novel Coronavirus

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF SAN PATRICIO

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

FIRST AMENDED
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and on March 11, 2020, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, on March 13, 2020 certified that COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in Texas in accordance with the authority vested to the Governor in Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services is reporting 56 confirmed cases located in 17 different counties in Texas as of March 15, 2020, and

WHEREAS, some schools, universities, and other neighboring governmental entities are beginning to alter their schedules, and some venues are beginning to temporarily close, as precautionary responses to the increasing presence of COVID-19 in Texas, and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of San Patricio County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of San Patricio County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF SAN PATRICIO COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION ONE

That the recitals set forth in this Declaration are true and correct and in accordance with the authority vested in me by Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, I hereby declare a state of disaster for San Patricio County, Texas.

SECTION TWO

That the local state of disaster proclaimed for San Patricio County, Texas by me on March 16, 2020, shall continue for a consecutive period, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, as directed by the County Judge.

SECTION THREE

All San Patricio County officials and employees are authorized to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the purpose of this Order.

SECTION FOUR

ADOPTION OF CDC RECOMMENDATION AS TO MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- A. In an effort to slow the spread COVID-19, this Declaration hereby adopts the CDC's recommendations as to mitigation strategies, as amended, designed to prevent community spread of this virus.
- B. This Declaration hereby limits the size of Mass Gatherings held by (i) 10 or more individuals at high risk for severe illness; or (ii) 50 or more individuals at low risk for illness within the unincorporated areas of San Patricio County and those cities who that have adopted and approved San Patricio County's Multi-Jurisdictional Basic Emergency Management Plan.

For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together (i) 10 or more individuals in high-risk populations; or (ii) 50 or more all other individuals at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), event center, festival grounds, meeting hall, conference center, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

A "Mass Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

For purposes of clarity, a "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:

- 1. gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, so long as 50 people are not present in any single space at the same time;
 - 2. use of enclosed spaces where 50 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 50 or more people are not present in the space at the same time;
 - 3. public or private schools;
 - 4. places of worship;
 - 5. office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
 - 6. grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, restaurants, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and
 - 7. hospitals, medical facilities and shelters.
- C. That this Declaration hereby directs that restaurants and other dining establishments shall not permit on-premises consumption of food or drink; provided however that such establishments may continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery provided they follow the social distancing protocols set forth by the CDC.

D. That this Declaration, as stated above, limits gatherings of persons in high-risk populations in excess of 10 persons. Organizations that serve primarily high-risk persons should cancel gatherings in excess of 10 persons. Organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing. "High-Risk Populations" include people who are:

1. 60 years old and older;
2. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
3. People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.

SECTION FIVE

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this First Amended Declaration of Local State of Disaster shall take effect at 12:01 a.m., Friday, March 19, 2020 and will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court.

ORDERED this the 19th day of March, 2020 at 11:30 o'clock a.m.



David R. Krebs

David R. Krebs, County Judge
San Patricio County, Texas

THIS FIRST AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER shall be promptly publicized was filed with the Clerk of San Patricio County, Texas on March 19, 2020.

Gracie Alaniz-Gonzales

Gracie Alaniz-Gonzales
County Clerk