



**JOHN H. GOTHIA
COUNTY JUDGE
ORANGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
123 SOUTH 6TH STREET
ORANGE, TEXAS 77630**

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IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF ORANGE, BE IT KNOWN:

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel (new) coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of 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, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director-General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America, Donald John Trump, declared the COVID-19 global pandemic as a National Emergency. Subsequently, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster to include all 254 Texas Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into and throughout the United States; 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, 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 risks, and promote the health and safety of all residents throughout Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Orange County will work collaboratively with all municipalities, school districts and other local, State and federal entities as necessary to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and contagion of COVID-19 throughout the County, Region and State; and

WHEREAS, a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens, and are hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Texas as the presiding officer of the governing body, I hereby DECLARE a local state of disaster within the entire boundaries of Orange County, Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(a)

This State of Disaster shall continue for a period of seven (7) days from the date of this DECLARATION unless continued or renewed by the Orange County Commissioners Court pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(b).

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance. This DECLARATION of a Local Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, and shall be filed promptly with the Orange County Clerk pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(c).

The Orange County Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated, and all other statutory powers vested in me, and all Officers of Orange County, to act in this local state of disaster are hereby initiated. This declaration activates the response, recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local and/or interlocal emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(d).

The County may adopt rules to protect the health of persons throughout the County, and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 122.006.

ORDERED this 17th day of March, 2020.



John H. Gothia, Orange County Judge
Orange County, TX