

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY (COVID-19)
FOR HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS**

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

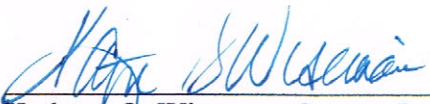
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

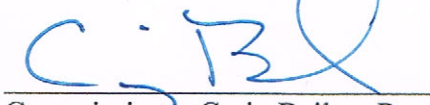
WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Howard County, Texas

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

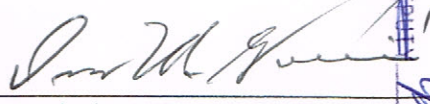
1. Pursuant to § 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, a state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared by Howard County, Texas;
2. Pursuant to § 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue until the Governor of the State of Texas withdraws the State's Declaration of Public Health Disaster.
3. Pursuant to § 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the County Clerk;
4. Pursuant to § 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency activates the Howard County Emergency Management Plan;
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;
6. 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;
7. This declaration of a state disaster for public health emergency shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

Declared this the 23 day of March, 2020.

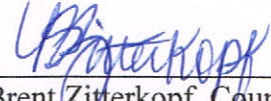

Kathryn G. Wiseman, County Judge


Commissioner Craig Bailey, Pct. 2

Commissioner John Cline, Pct. 4


Commissioner Oscar Garcia, Pct. 1

Commissioner Jimmie Long, Pct. 3

Attest: 
Brent Zitterkopf, County Clerk

FILED
IN COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
2020 MAR 23 PM 4:28
Brent Zitterkopf
COUNTY CLERK HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS