

**JOINT DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER AND
ORDER REGARDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATHERINGS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

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 57 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 Mayor of the City of Beeville and the County Judge of Bee County have 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 Beeville and of Bee 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 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BEEVILLE AND BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF BEE COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION I

That the recitals set forth in this Declaration are true and correct and in accordance with Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, a state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Beeville and for Bee County, Texas.

SECTION II

That the local state of disaster proclaimed for the City of Beeville and Bee County, Texas on **March 17, 2020**, shall continue for a consecutive period not to exceed seven days pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION III

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety. At the current time, the shortage of available tests and rapid nationwide spread of COVID-19 in tested areas indicates there is a strong likelihood of currently undetected community transmission of COVID-19 within the Region. Due to said transmission, the Governor of the State of Texas and President of the United States declared states of disaster and emergency on March 13, 2020.

Because of the risk of the rapid spread of coronavirus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of 250 persons or more anywhere in the City of Beeville and in Bee County beginning immediately and continuing for 7 days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law. Accordingly, all persons are prohibited from organizing, managing, furthering, and attending Mass Gatherings for the next 7 days, which is subject to extension pursuant to requirements of state law.

For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19

Transmission” issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf). including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons.

Definitions and further guidance:

- a. 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 250 or more persons 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), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- b. 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.
- c. For purposes of clarity, a “Mass Gathering” does not include the following:
 - i. gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, so long as 250 people are not present in any single space at the same time;
 - ii. use of enclosed spaces where 250 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 250 or more people are not present in the space at the same time;
 - iii. public or private schools;
 - iv. office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
 - v. grocery stores 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;
 - vi. hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; and
 - vii. jails and detention centers

In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow social distancing recommendations and harm reduction measures (such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible).

It is hereby recommended that persons should avoid gatherings in excess of 50 persons. Organizations should cancel gatherings in excess of 50 persons. Persons in high-risk populations (i.e. Elderly, etc.) should avoid gatherings 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:

- a. 60 years old and older;
- b. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
- c. People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.
- d. People experiencing homelessness.

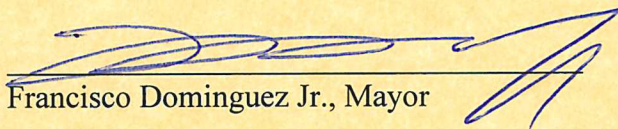
SECTION IV

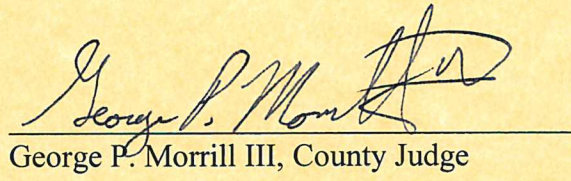
A violation of this order is a violation of the emergency management plans of the City and County. A person who violates any provision of this order may be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation and additional amounts as authorized by law.

SECTION V

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

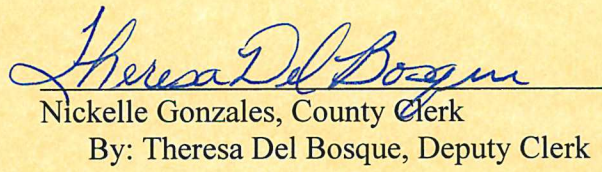
ORDERED this the 17th day of March, 2020.


Francisco Dominguez Jr., Mayor


George P. Morrill III, County Judge

ATTEST:


Gabriela Hernandez, City Secretary


Nickelle Gonzales, County Clerk
By: Theresa Del Bosque, Deputy Clerk