

ORDER NO. 200415 - 01

**AN ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF GAINES COUNTY, TEXAS: (1) APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE GAINES COUNTY, TEXAS DISASTER DECLARATION NO. 4 REGARDING THE PENDING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIC AND EMERGENCY, AND THE EXECUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF BY THE COUNTY JUDGE; AND (2) ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETING ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, Gaines County, Texas ("County") is a county of the State of Texas, having been duly created and organized under the constitution and laws of Texas, and further, the Gaines County Commissioners Court ("Commissioners Court") is the governing body of said County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized by the national and international public health professions that a novel coronavirus currently exists called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (currently designated in those professions as SARS-CoV2) which causes the disease now recognized worldwide as "COVID-19;" and

**WHEREAS**, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and further, the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious and primarily is transmitted between people in close contact through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been declared an epidemic and global pandemic by the World Health Organization, and further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC," an administrative agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services) advised that person to person contact presents great risk of COVID-19 transmission between humans; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, and earlier the Governor of Texas issued disaster declarations pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code and other authority, containing among other things (1) provisions stating that COVID 19 is recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and is an imminent threat to all counties in Texas, (2) provisions stating that COVID-19 was recognized on March 19, 2020 by the Texas Department of Health Services as public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and (3) certain conduct restrictions and prohibitions designed to improve public health and prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19 in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court by this order, and pursuant to Chapter 418 and other applicable authority, desires in the public interest to approve, adopt, implement, and enforce the County's proposed **Disaster Declaration No. 4** regarding the pending COVID-19 epidemic and public health emergency, in the form and scope as described in the attached **Exhibit A ("Disaster Declaration No. 4")**, among other things to (1) prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19 in Gaines County, Texas, and (2) protect the public, including

County staff, from the devastating effects of COVID-19 on public health, community welfare, and the local economy; and

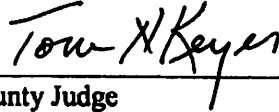
**WHEREAS**, the approval, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of **Disaster Declaration No. 4** and this order shall accomplish or substantially achieve all public purposes therein described.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Gaines County Commissioners Court, for and on behalf of said County and in the public interest, as follows:

- (1) Unless otherwise designated, the past, present, or future tense shall each include the other, the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender shall each include the other, and the singular and plural number shall each include the other, where necessary for a correct meaning.
- (2) The caption and preliminary recitals of this order, and all attached documents, are incorporated by reference.
- (3) The Commissioners Court hereby approves and adopts in all things the execution, implementation, and enforcement of the County's proposed **Disaster Declaration No. 4** regarding the pending COVID-19 epidemic and public health emergency, in the form and scope as described in the attached **Exhibit A**.
- (4) The Commissioners Court orders that: (a) the Gaines County Judge shall (i) properly execute and implement **Disaster Declaration No. 4** in the form and scope as described in the attached **Exhibit A**, and (ii) timely initiate and complete on behalf of the County and as allowed by law all tasks necessary or desired to accomplish the filing, distribution, and implementation of the **Disaster Declaration No. 4** in the public interest; and (b) the County's staff and legal counsel shall assist the County Judge in the timely initiation and completion of all necessary or desired tasks described in this instrument.
- (5) All notice and conditions precedent for the lawful enactment, approval, and adoption of the **Disaster Declaration No. 4** have been timely accomplished.
- (6) This order shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.
- (7) This matter was ordered, approved, and adopted at a public meeting held in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**ORDERED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

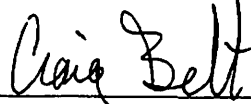
**THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF  
GAINES COUNTY, TEXAS**



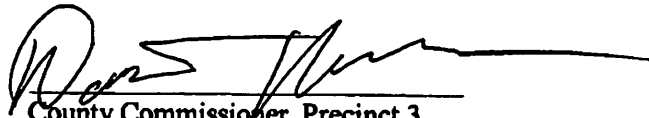
County Judge  
Gaines County, Texas



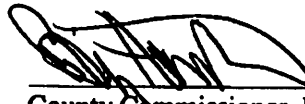
County Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Gaines County, Texas



County Commissioner, Precinct 2  
Gaines County, Texas



County Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Gaines County, Texas



County Commissioner, Precinct 4  
Gaines County, Texas

**ATTEST:**



County Clerk  
Gaines County, Texas

**EXHIBIT A**  
**(Gaines County, Texas COVID-19 Disaster Declaration No. 4)**

**GAINES COUNTY TEXAS**  
**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING COVID-19 EPIDEMIC,**  
**ORDER NO. 4**

(Effective at 12:01 a.m. Local Time on April 16, 2020)

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized by the national and international public health professions that a novel coronavirus currently exists called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (currently designated in those professions as SARS-CoV2) which causes the disease now recognized worldwide as "COVID-19;" and

**WHEREAS**, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and further, the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious and primarily is transmitted between people in close contact through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been declared an epidemic and global pandemic by the World Health Organization, and further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC," an administrative agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services) advised that person to person contact presents great risk of COVID-19 transmission between humans; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the CDC requested the public to decrease the spread of COVID-19, among other things, by (1) avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people, (2) using drive-through, pick-up or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and (3) avoiding visitation at nursing homes and other facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Texas recently issued disaster declaration proclamations and/or executive orders regarding the COVID-19 epidemic and public health emergency in Texas, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code ("Chapter 418") and other authority, therein recognizing among other things that (1) COVID-19 is an existing or imminent threat of disaster for all counties in Texas, (2) COVID 19 is recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus, (3) COVID-19 is recognized by the Texas Department of Health Services as a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and (4) the COVID-19 epidemic and emergency requires certain conduct restrictions and prohibitions to be ordered by the Governor to improve public health and prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19 in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued Executive Order No. GA-14 ("EO-GA-14"), pursuant to Chapter 418 and other authority, a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by reference, said order being effective on a statewide basis beginning 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020 and continuing through April 30, 2020, and certifying among other things that:

- (1) the COVID-19 epidemic and public health emergency is an imminent threat

of disaster for all counties in Texas;

- (2) according to certain federal public health resources, hundreds of thousands of deaths could occur in the United States due to COVID-19 if restrictive social-distancing guidelines did not remain in place through April 30, 2020;
- (3) on March 28, 2020 the United States Department of Homeland Security issued a guidance document regarding essential critical infrastructure workforce and provided an advisory list of critical infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions (hereafter "Essential Services") that should continue during the COVID-19 emergency, and the contents of said guidance document is incorporated by reference;
- (4) all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing Essential Services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational, pursuant to the public health guidance standards described in EO-GA-14 and the aforesaid March 28, 2020 guidance document issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security;
- (5) pursuant to the Texas Governor's powers under Chapter 418 and other authority, the provisions of § 418.101(5) of the Texas Government Code (regarding the designation of the presiding officer of a city or county as the emergency management director for the political subdivision), and § 418.108 of the Texas Government Code (regarding the power of the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster), and other relevant statutes, were suspended by the Governor in EO-GA-14 to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with EO-GA-14; and
- (6) local officials may enforce EO-GA-14, and may enforce local restrictions that are consistent with EO-GA-14; and

**WHEREAS**, Gaines County, Texas ("County") desires by this instrument ("Declaration") to take extraordinary measures as allowed by law, including without limitation all applicable provisions of Chapter 418 not inconsistent with EO-GA-14, in order to:

- (1) declare that a local state of disaster exists in Gaines County, Texas due to the threat and existence of COVID-19;
- (2) declare that COVID-19 constitutes an epidemic, public health emergency, and local disaster pursuant to Chapter 418;
- (3) prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19 in Gaines County, Texas through approval and adoption of EO-GA-14, a copy of which is attached

as **Exhibit 1**, as well as other conduct restrictions and prohibitions, not inconsistent with EO-GA-14, designed to improve public health in Gaines County, Texas and prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19;

- (4) protect the public, including County staff, from the devastating effects of COVID-19 on public health, community welfare, and the local economy; and
- (5) implement and/or reserve all powers, actions, rights, and remedies afforded the County, including its elected or appointed public officials, pursuant to all applicable legal authority not inconsistent with EO-GA-14, in order to deal with, defeat, and recover from the effects of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED, RESOLVED, AND ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF GAINES COUNTY, TEXAS, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF SAID COUNTY AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Interpretation**

**SECTION 1.** Unless otherwise designated, the past, present, or future tense shall each include the other, the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender shall each include the other, and the singular and plural number shall each include the other where necessary for a correct meaning in this Declaration.

**SECTION 2.** All statements made in the preliminary recitals of this Declaration and all attached documents are incorporated by reference and constitute fact findings to support this Declaration.

**Effective Date, Duration, and Amendment**

**SECTION 3.** This **COVID-19 Disaster Declaration No. 4** shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. local time on April 16, 2020, and thereafter shall supersede all previous declarations or orders regarding this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms and provisions.

**SECTION 4.** This Declaration shall not be continued or renewed for more than seven (7) days from its effective date, subject to being extended, revised, or terminated as allowed by law.

**Disaster Declaration, Activation of Emergency Management Plan and County Action Plan, Prohibited Conduct, and Enforcement**

**SECTION 5.** The following matters are approved and adopted for use and implementation in this Declaration: (a) the provisions of EO-GA-14 as described in **Exhibit 1**, including all Essential Services approved by the Texas Department of Emergency Management ("TDEM"); (b) the provisions of the guidance document, dated March 28, 2020, of the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding essential critical infrastructure workforce, including the advisory

list of critical infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions (Essential Services) that should continue during the COVID-19 emergency, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.

**SECTION 6.** A local state of disaster for a public health emergency is hereby declared and exists for Gaines County, Texas pursuant to the authority granted in Chapter 418 and other applicable authority, not inconsistent with EO-GA-14, due to the existence and threat of the COVID-19 epidemic as herein described.

**SECTION 7.** This disaster Declaration activates the emergency management plan of Gaines County, Texas and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance pursuant to this Declaration, as well as Chapter 418 and other applicable authority.

**SECTION 8.** Pursuant to the applicable provisions of Chapter 418 and other authority, this Declaration authorizes the County to take action authorized by law, not inconsistent with EO-GA-14, and deemed necessary or advisable to protect public health and suppress the transmission of COVID-19 including the: (a) establishment of quarantine stations or centers; (b) quarantine of persons and occupied structures or areas; (c) regulation of ingress and egress to occupied structures or areas; (d) regulation of medical and healthcare facilities to insure compliance with the state and County regulations and directives relating to the declared COVID-19 disaster; (e) evacuation of persons and the regulation of ingress and egress of persons to or from the County or parts thereof where COVID-19 or its related virus are reasonably suspected to exist; (f) prohibition of certain conduct and activities to prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19; and (g) all matters stated in this Declaration and their lawful enforcement.

**SECTION 9.** Pursuant to EO-GA-14 and the applicable authority granted to the County by Chapter 418, the following conduct and activity prohibitions are hereby enacted for Gaines County, Texas in order to protect public health and prevent or decrease the transmission of COVID-19:

- (a) In accordance with the authority and references cited in said order, every person in Gaines County, Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain Essential Services, avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- (b) Pursuant to the authority and references recited in said order, Essential Services shall consist of: (i) everything listed in the aforesaid guidance document, dated March 28, 2020, of the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding Essential Services and critical infrastructure workforce, the contents of which are incorporated by reference, including the advisory list of critical infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 emergency; (ii) religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship; and (iii) Essential Services listed by TDEM on its agency website pages.



- (c) In providing or obtaining Essential Services, people and businesses should follow the authority and references recited in EO-GA-14 by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are Essential Services that cannot be provided through remote telework.
- (d) If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the authority and references recited in EO-GA-14 by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- (e) In accordance with the authority and references recited in said order, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-through, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks are allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this Declaration.
- (f) This Declaration does not prohibit people from accessing Essential Services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other Essential Services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- (g) In accordance with the authority and references recited in said order, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- (h) In accordance with the authority and references recited in said order, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

**SECTION 10.** This Declaration does not constitute a Shelter in Place or Stay at Home order, and does not mandate sheltering in place.

**SECTION 11.** Regarding the provision of essential government services by Gaines County, Texas to the public during the COVID-19 disaster, the following procedures are enacted:

- (a) The County will continue to provide Essential Services to the public, but

will do so pursuant to a **County Action Plan (approved and enacted April 1, 2020 by the Commissioners Court)** for limited or reduced public access to certain County services, offices, and staff due to the COVID-19 emergency, using public health guidelines described in EO-GA-14, this Declaration, and the action plan. The County Action Plan is posted on the County's website at [www.gaincs.co.tx.us](http://www.gaincs.co.tx.us) and may be amended or revised at County discretion.

- (b) Some of the County's public offices and properties will be closed for unlimited public access, and the scheduling for the provision of Essential Services by appointment will be required.
- (c) The scheduling and holding of the public meetings of the Commissioners Court will continue pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (the Texas Open Meetings Act), including telephonic or videoconference public meetings to be conducted at the discretion of said Court.
- (d) The provision and/or coordination by the County of law enforcement and emergency services to the public will be continued and maintained, including law enforcement services, jail operation services, and fire, ambulance, EMS, and 911 emergency call operations.
- (e) For the safety of the public, all authorized interaction occurring between the public and the elected officials, appointed officials, employees, and representatives of the governmental entities herein described, for or relating to the provision of government services, will occur in compliance with the public health guidance references described by EO-GA-14, this Declaration, and the County Action Plan. The denial of public access to government services will occur if an unreasonable risk of COVID-19 transmission or exposure exists pursuant to the public health guidance policies described in EO-GA-14, this Declaration, or the County Action Plan, including the guidance documents of the South Plains Public Health District ("SPPHD") provided to the County regarding the practice of good workplace hygiene, environmental cleanliness and sanitation, social distancing, and screening protocol.

#### **Filing and Posting**

**SECTION 12.** This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity by: (a) prompt filing with the County Clerk of Gaines County, Texas; (b) posting at the Gaines County Courthouse at the physical location where Commissioners Court meeting agendas are posted; (c) posting on the County's internet website at [www.gaincs.co.tx.us](http://www.gaincs.co.tx.us); and (d) submission to all state and/or local governmental entities, or agencies thereof, if required by law.

### **Conditions Precedent**

**SECTION 13.** All conditions precedent and notice for the lawful approval and adoption of this Declaration have been accomplished, and the form, scope, and content of the Declaration is in compliance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 418.

### **Notice**

**SECTION 14.** Any necessary or desired notice or document submission to the County Judge of Gaines County, Texas regarding or related to this Declaration shall be sent to: Hon. Tom Keyes, County Judge, Gaines County, Texas, Gaines County Courthouse, 101 South Main Street, Room 201, Seminole, Texas 79360; telephone (432) 758-5411; facsimile (432) 758-4031; e-mail tom.keyes@co.gaines.tx.us.

### **Partial Invalidity**

**SECTION 15.** Should any part of this Declaration, or the application or enforcement thereof, be determined or adjudged invalid by any court, tribunal, administrative agency, or governmental office, the remainder of the Declaration shall remain fully effective and operable.

### **Headings**

**SECTION 16.** The separate headings contained in this Declaration are for reference and convenience only, and shall not limit or otherwise affect in any way the meaning of this Declaration.

### **Adopted Authority**

**SECTION 17.** The following legal authority, as amended, including the express and implied powers and authority therein granted to the County, its Commissioners Court, and/or its County Judge, are hereby approved and adopted to support the enactment, interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this Declaration: Chapter 418 and other applicable authority.

### **Enforcement**

**SECTION 18.** The following enforcement provisions are approved and adopted:

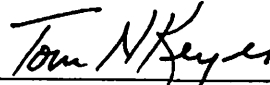
- (a) The County reserves all rights to pursue, and shall implement and pursue, all actions and remedies allowed by law or equity to address a violation or threatened violation of this Declaration, the Gaines County emergency management plan, or a rule, order, or ordinance adopted under said plan, including without limitation civil litigation and criminal prosecution.
- (b) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates or fails to comply with this Declaration, the Gaines County emergency management plan, or a rule,

order, or ordinance adopted under said plan commits an offense which is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one hundred-eighty (180) days.

**Execution**

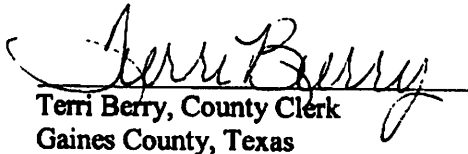
**EXECUTED** at 10:28 o'clock a.m. local time on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

**EFFECTIVE** at 12:01 o'clock a.m. local time on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Keyes, County Judge  
Gaines County, Texas.

**ATTEST:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Berry, County Clerk  
Gaines County, Texas

TERRI BERRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Clerk  
Gaines County, Texas

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**(EO-GA-14, Dated March 31, 2020)**

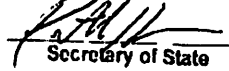


GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 31, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2:PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

  
Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701

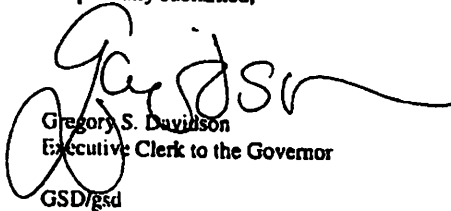
Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services  
and activities during the COVID-19 disaster.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor  
GSD/gsd

Attachment

# Executive Order

BY THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department  
Austin, Texas  
March 31, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
GA 14

*Relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities  
during the COVID-19 disaster.*

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WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to the COVID-19 disaster, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, which called upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-08 is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, absent further action by the governor; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the President announced that, based on advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx say that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, which provides an advisory list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, for state agencies and their employees and agents, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas has advised that local restrictions issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster do not apply to restrict the conduct of state business; and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

WHEREAS, all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the "governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business ... if strict compliance with the provisions ... would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the "governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), the "governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

"Essential services" shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020



home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order. I hereby suspend Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-08, but not Executive Orders GA-09, GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, or GA-13, and shall remain in effect and in full force until April 30, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 31st day of  
March, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in cursive script.

GREG ABBOTT  
Governor

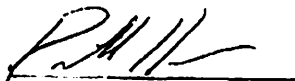
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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

**Governor Greg Abbott**  
March 31, 2020

**Executive Order GA-14**  
Page 4

ATTESTED BY:



RUTH R. HUGHS  
Secretary of State

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020