

**CITY LOCKHART, TEXAS
MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, 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, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; 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, on March 16, 2020, the County Judge of Caldwell County, in which the City of Lockhart is located, issued an order pursuant to Section 418.108, Texas Government Code, declaring a local state of disaster within Caldwell County, which order is effective within the City of Lockhart; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lockhart, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LOCKHART, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Lockhart, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless continued or renewed with consent of the City Council of the City of Lockhart, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Lockhart, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including all such steps that are necessary, convenient, and authorized by law to meet and respond to the potential threats to public health and safety posed by COVID-19;

SECTION 6. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 50 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 50 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.


SECTION 7. The limitation on the size of gatherings shall extend to commercial (retail, wholesale, industrial, service, eating, and entertainment) establishments, with the exception of grocery stores, and the representatives of such establishments shall be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the limitation on the size of gatherings. Employees of such establishments shall not be counted as part of a gathering.

SECTION 8. 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.

SECTION 9. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 10. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 17th day of March, 2020.



Lew White, Mayor
City of Lockhart, Texas

Attest:



Connie Constancio, City Secretary

