

STATE OF TEXAS §  
§  
COUNTY OF HARRISON §

FILED FOR RECORD  
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**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19**

ELIZABETH JAMES  
COUNTY CLERK  
BY AT

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses the threat of widespread illness and has been declared a World, National and State Health Emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which the continued spread of COVID-19 could escalate to constitute an imminent threat of disaster in Harrison County; and,

**WHEREAS**, as Harrison County Judge, I have concerns regarding inappropriate accommodations for an influx of local COVID-19 patients, personal protective equipment shortages for emergency response personnel and the potential for the escalation spread of the disease in pandemic form; and,

**WHEREAS**, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of COVID-19 by slowing the transmission of the disease; and,

**WHEREAS**, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE HONORABLE CHAD SIMS,  
COUNTY JUDGE OF HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS:**

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared in Harrison County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the local state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Harrison County Commissioners Court.

3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, the declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the Harrison County Emergency Management Plan.
5. Pursuant to §418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster authorizes the County Judge to control ingress to and egress from Harrison County and to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises with Harrison County.
6. All officers and employees of Harrison County, including without limitation all law enforcement officers employed by Harrison County and all medical personnel employed by Harrison County, are hereby authorized and directed to cooperate to the fullest extent allowed by law with the health authority designated by Harrison County pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to enforce any and all communicable disease control measures imposed by said health authority pursuant to Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code or other applicable law.
7. That a violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the county's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

**ORDERED** and **DECLARED** this 26th day of March, 2020.



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Chad Sims

Harrison County Judge

Filed with the Clerk of Harrison County on March 26, 2020.