



Filed For Record 3:35

JUN 26 2020

Becky Ivey  
County Clerk, Johnson County Texas  
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

**COUNTY OF JOHNSON, TEXAS  
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
EFFECTIVE 6:00 PM JUNE 26, 2020**

**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**, 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**, Johnson County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of the 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.

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on April 17, 2020, suspended Section 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 in response to the COVID-19 disaster that were inconsistent with the Governor's executive orders; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on or about April 27, 2020, expressed that local officials cannot require individuals to wear face masks to ensure that individual liberty is not infringed upon by government; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2020, County Judge Roger Harmon rescinded Johnson County's Declaration of Disaster to correspond with Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Orders;

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on June 17, 2020, stated that local governments can require stores and businesses to require masks; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott, on June 26, 2020, amended a previous executive order to allow local officials to "impose additional restrictions" on outdoor gatherings estimated to be in excess of 100 people in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of this Declaration of Disaster to remain consistent with and to harmonize, to the extent possible, the Declaration of Disaster of Governor Greg Abbott (as extended or modified); and

**WHEREAS**, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and;

**WHEREAS**, the Johnson County Judge is authorized to take such actions as are necessary in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Johnson County by the issuance of Declarations of Disaster as necessary so long as such action is consistent with Governor Abbott's executive orders; and

**WHEREAS**, by the authority vested in me as Johnson County Judge to continue to protect the health and safety of the community and address developing and rapidly changing circumstances when presented by the current public health emergency, I hereby issue this Declaration of Disaster.

**THEREFORE**, pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, be It Proclaimed and **ORDERED** by the County Judge that effective at 6:00 p.m. on June 26, 2020, ("Effective Date") of this Declaration of Disaster and continuing through 6:00 p.m. on July 3, 2020, unless extended, modified or terminated early by the Johnson County Judge or the Commissioners Court that:

1. Other than the exceptions specifically provided in the executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott, individuals in areas open to the public where social distancing is not feasible and where it is estimated that 100 people or more are present, are required to wear masks.
2. All people 10 years or older are strongly urged to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in an area open to the public where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people. The CDC advises face coverings for people 2 years or older. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Johnson County residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their home.
3. The requirement of a face covering does not apply if covering the nose and mouth poses a significant mental or physical health risk to the individual. The requirement of a face covering also does not apply when an individual is consuming a food or beverage or receiving a service where the wearing of a face covering would impair the performance of the service.
4. Any peace officer or other person with lawful authority is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Declaration of Disaster as permitted by law.

**ORDERED this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.**

  
**Roger Harmon, County Judge**