

FILED

MAR 18 2020

LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

ALISON HALEY
CLERK, COUNTY COURT, MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS
By *Alison Haley* Deputy

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions seem to be at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, as of March 7, 2020, the World Health Organization reported that the global number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 100,000; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, the World Health Organization urged every country to take all necessary measures to slow further spread of COVID-19 and to protect health systems from becoming overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that “it’s likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur,” which translates to a large number of people needing medical care at the same time; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster and the President of the United State of America declared a national emergency in relation to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of noon on March 18, 2020, the CDC confirmed 7,038 cases and 97 deaths related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lubbock and none in Midland; and

WHEREAS, the probable emergence and spread of COVID-19 within Midland poses an imminent threat of widespread illness resulting from an epidemic that requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the health and welfare of County residents from the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, §418.108 authorizes the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local emergency and public health emergency includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, prevent the spread of the disease and promote the health and safety of individuals in Midland; and

WHEREAS, Midland County will work collaboratively with the entire region, as well as the local health authority to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19; and

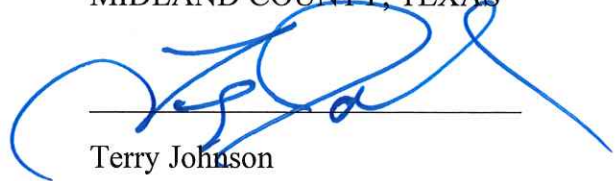
WHEREAS, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERRY JOHNSON, COUNTY JUDGE OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT COVID-19 POSES AN IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER TO MIDLAND COUNTY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 418.018 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, I HEREBY DECLARE A STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR MIDLAND COUNTY. FURTHERMORE,

1. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioner's Court.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of emergency activates the County emergency plan.
4. This declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plan.
5. The County Judge, as Emergency Management Director, serves as the governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code and may exercise the powers granted to the governor under that chapter on an appropriate local scale, and may issue directives necessary to protect life in the County.
6. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 18th day of March 2020

MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS



Terry Johnson
Midland County Judge

ATTEST:



Alison Haley
County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Russell W. Malm
County Attorney