

MAR 18 2020

KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS  
COUNTY JUDGE'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

VERONICA VELA  
COUNTY CLERK KENEDY COUNTY  
By *Veronica Vela* DEPUTY

**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**, Kenedy County, 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, LOUIS E. TURCOTTE, III, KENEDY COUNTY JUDGE, PROCLAIMS AND DECLARES THIS LOCAL COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Kenedy County, 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 by the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court of Kenedy County, 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 County Clerk, Veronica Vela.

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

**SECTION 5.** That this Declaration authorizes Kenedy County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the Kenedy County quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1, hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from Kenedy County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with Kenedy County's rules, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.

**SECTION 6.** That this Declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 30 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 30 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area. The limitation on the size of gatherings does not include employees of the establishment where they work, nor does it include designated medical facilities.

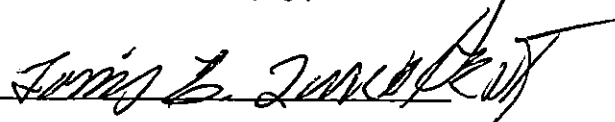
**SECTION 7.** That to reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission, public meetings will be held in a manner intended to separate, to the maximum practical extent, audience and presenters from personal contact with members of Community, County Staff, and County Commissioners' Court. Public testimony and public hearing input for Public Comment and all items on the agenda at the public meeting of Kenedy County Commissioners' Court shall be provided in written format and presented to the County Clerk and/or designee prior to the start of each meeting of the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court. This testimony and/or public input shall be in accordance with the Kenedy County Clerk's instructions, which shall be posted on the Kenedy County's indoor and outdoor public bulletin boards at the Kenedy County Courthouse and on the County's website, and allow for electronic submission. The written public testimony shall be provided to members of the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court prior to voting on measures for that meeting. Written testimony shall be limited in accordance with the written requirements and shall be placed into the record of each meeting. This written testimony shall serve as the required public testimony pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.007 and shall constitute a public hearing for purposes of any public hearing requirement under law.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Louis E. Trucotte, County Judge  
Kenedy County, Texas

ATTEST

  
Veronica Vela, County Clerk

