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Executive Order

NUMBER WM-03

Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation

GLENDIA MASTON
COUNTY CLERK
HARDIN COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: *Glenda Maston*

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus COVID-19 disease has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and has been declared by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, Texas, pursuant to the authority granted me by Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, issued a Disaster Declaration certifying a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens of Hardin County in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 418.108(d) and 418.108(g), hereby issue this Executive Order which encompasses all areas inside the boundaries of Hardin County, including the incorporated municipalities of: Kountze, Lumberton, Rose Hill Acres, Silsbee and Sour Lake, Texas by the authority of each City or Town Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a countywide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

The Hardin County Courthouse will remain open with flexible staffing; however access to the Courthouse by the public will be significantly limited. Most services can be accessed by the public electronically or by mail. Therefore, in order to gain access to the Courthouse, it must be because of exigent circumstances and you must call the department head or elected official, whose department you wish to visit, and, if granted entry, you must be escorted from the security screening area by someone from that department. THIS APPLIES TO ALL COUNTY OFFICES. Persons who are granted entry must agree to undergo a simple health screening protocol upon entering and, if the health screening indicates that they may pose a health threat, they may be denied entry.

Order No. 1 In accordance with the Guidelines from President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC, every person in Hardin County, Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. This shall include social gatherings of more than 10 people at public facilities across Hardin County and private residences.

Order No. 2 Any event sponsored or permitted by Hardin County shall cease.

Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, all restaurant dining rooms, bars, social clubs, and nightclubs are closed; however, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the duration of this executive order.

Order No. 4 All gyms, fitness clubs, tattoo shops, game rooms, business operating 8-liners and massage therapy facilities shall close effective immediately.

Order No. 5 All hair salons, beauty salons, and barber shops shall close according to their normal posted business hours this date and remain closed until further notice. All nail salons shall close according to their normal posted business hours this date and remain closed until further notice.

Order No. 6 All door-to-door sales shall cease effective immediately. Residents who encounter a salesman at their door should simply not answer the door.

Order No. 7 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 8 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. This does not apply to licensed child-care facilities, including a daycare center, group daycare home or family home. All childcare facilities shall reduce their occupancy to 10% of the Maximum Occupancy limit as set forth by the International Building Code (IBC).