

ORDER AND DECLARATION OF THE JONES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT EXTENDING THE COUNTY JUDGE'S DISASTER DECLARATION AND ORDER OF MARCH 20, 2020 AS AMENDED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT HEREIN, AND DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR JONES COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a pandemic and urged that all countries take urgent and aggressive action; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster in Texas due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") lowered the recommended number of persons at mass gatherings to 50 persons; and

WHEREAS, large gatherings of individuals pose a risk of the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close proximity to each other through respiratory droplets produced when a person coughs or sneezes. The CDC recommends that persons maintain a distance of six feet from others when possible; and

WHEREAS, limiting large gatherings is essential and proactive to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary and immediate measures needed to be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Governor Abbott requested that all counties restrict restaurants to drive-through or take-out only, close all bars, and restrict community gatherings to 10 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, County Judge DALE SPURGIN issued a disaster declaration and order restricting community gatherings to 10 or fewer persons; and restricting the number of patrons in restaurants, bars and certain other businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on the Governor's request and the fact that there are now reported cases of

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF JONES COUNTY, TEXAS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108:

1. That the local state of disaster and public health emergency declared for JONES County, Texas by the County Judge is hereby EXTENDED, and that the County Judge's Order is ADOPTED AND RESTATED except as AMENDED herein by this Court based on new developments. A local state of disaster and public health emergency in JONES County is DECLARED.
2. Although applicable to JONES County, nothing in this order is intended to prohibit or shall prohibit a city in this County from ordering any measure allowed by subsections Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, including stricter measures than are contained herein.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster 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, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the County's emergency management plan.
5. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, every person in Jones County shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
6. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms; provided however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this Order.
7. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
8. In addition to these guidelines, Citizens are strongly encouraged to exercise social distancing of at least 6 feet, regularly wash hands in soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and to not come to the Jones County Courthouse unless absolutely necessary.
9. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, schools shall temporarily close.
10. IT IS ORDERED THAT persons coming to the Jones County Courthouse is discouraged. THEREFORE the Courthouse is closed to the public except with an appointment as approved by the appropriate county office. Persons coming to the Jones County Courthouse must enter at the courthouse basement, south entrance. From there they contact the respective county office and the office decides, based on its own discretion,

how to proceed with such person. A person shall not proceed to a county office from the basement until a representative of such county office comes and takes them to the county office. Each county office, at its discretion, may allow a person to enter the courthouse to do business at that county official's office. The person shall be escorted out of the courthouse through the basement exit by a county representative and shall leave after completing their business with that courthouse office. A person found unescorted inside the courthouse in violation of this ORDER shall be punishable as set out in Paragraph 16 below.

11. The Jones County Commissioner's Court shall be allowed to hold virtual meetings, either through telephone or videoconferencing consistent with the Governor's order of March 16, 2020, that suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act including the require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. The Commissioner's Court is required to allow the following:

Members of the public will be entitled to participate and address the governmental body during any telephonic or videoconference meeting.

To hold a telephonic or videoconference meeting, a governmental body must post a written notice that gives the public a way to participate remotely, such as a toll-free dial-in number, and that includes an electronic copy of any agenda packet that officials will consider at the meeting.


A governmental body must provide the public with access to a recording of any telephonic or videoconference meeting.

12. Jones County grants an addition 80 hours of sick leave if such sick leave is related to the COVID-19 virus AND if 1) a health care provider states the employee is to remain away from his or her work for a period of time of up to 10 working days OR 2) that employee's elected official approves such leave and the elected official believes that such sick leave is related to COVID-19 virus. Such sick leave must be otherwise consistent with current employee policy manual guidelines.
13. The Courthouse will NOT be open as a shelter in the event of a severe weather event.
14. This ORDER shall become effective at 11:59 pm on March 24, 2020, and shall end on **April 3, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. or in the event Governor Greg Abbott extends his Executive Order GA-08, then this ORDER extends until the next called Commissioner's Court Meeting after April 3, 2020, which discusses such Declaration; until then, the restrictions as set forth in the County Judge's Order of March 23, 2020 shall apply.**
15. The County will promptly provide copies of this Order by posting it on the County's website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be

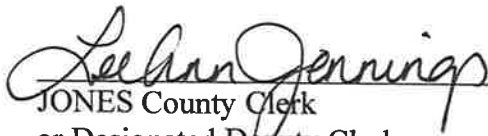
impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

16. That a violation of this order shall be punishable as authorized by Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days. That this declaration also hereby authorizes the use of any other lawfully available enforcement tools.
17. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

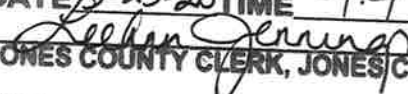
ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF JONES COUNTY, TEXAS on this the 23rd day of March, 2020.


DALE SPURGIN
COUNTY JUDGE
JONES COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:


JONES County Clerk
or Designated Deputy Clerk



POSTED NOTICE
DATE 3-23-20 TIME 4:47 PM

JONES COUNTY CLERK, JONES CO., TX
