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**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
COUNTY OF COKE, TEXAS  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**COKE COUNTY & DIST. CLERK  
MONICA REYES**

**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**, Coke County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our communities and throughout the county; that includes the banning of community gatherings of over 10 people and, additionally, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional measures that prevent or control the spread of disease;

**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, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF COKE COUNTY, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for COKE 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 approved by the Commissioners Court of COKE 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.

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

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives. The County hereby declares that those persons under investigation, persons under management, and quarantined persons remain within the confines of their home or in safe, secure facilities during the quarantine period.

**SECTION 6.** That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area. For purposes of this declaration, a gathering does not include the following:

- a. A government-owned facility or a facility in which government business is being conducted;
- b. Public schools and Nursing homes have their own set of mandates for closure and visitation by executive order of the governor, and are unaffected by this declaration;
- c. Places of worship;
- d. Commercial businesses.

**SECTION 7.** That individuals at increased risk of severe illness are advised to shelter in place and remain within the confines of their homes.

**SECTION 8.** That for essential meetings, groups are encouraged to consider holding audio/visual meetings instead, and promote telecommuting. Groups must adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the CDC at all gatherings.

**SECTION 9.** Dining in at public eating facilities have been prohibited by executive order of the governor. However, drive-through and takeout services for patrons are strongly advised and encouraged.

**SECTION 10.** 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 11.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 12.** That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

**DECLARED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**



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Hal Spain  
County Judge  
Coke County, Texas

**\*By order of the Commissioners' Court of Coke County, Texas, the above disaster declaration has been extended through April 14, 2020. All other provisions of the declaration remain in place until modified, extended, or cancelled by the court.**