



## MEDINA COUNTY, TEXAS

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**Chris Schuchart**  
County Judge

1893 Jail Building  
1502 Avenue K  
Room 201  
Hondo, Texas 78861  
(830) 741-6020  
(830) 741-6025 Fax

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### DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, I, Chris Schuchart, Medina County Judge, am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code, Chapter 418) to declare a public health emergency and order the implementation of certain directives as further set out herein; and

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, 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, on March 12, 2020, officials from a surrounding County and City confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the first case of travel related COVID-19 was confirmed in Medina County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Medina County will continue to work collaboratively with the Cities of Medina County, Medina County employees, as well as the local health authority, to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Medina County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist the County's response to this situation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF MEDINA:**

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Medina County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Pursuant to §418.108(b), of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Medina County Commissioners Court.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency 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 and public health emergency activates Medina County's emergency management plan as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Medina County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease throughout Medina County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Medina County and any impacted areas.
6. Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Medina, I issue guidance as set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1" and Attachment "2".
7. As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Medina, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

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



Chris Schuchart  
Medina County Judge

## Exhibit "1"

### Declaration regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Other Matters

- I. Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings:
  - a. This Exhibit "1" incorporates and adopts, except as where noted below, the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") Interim Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) dated March 15, 2019.
  - b. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.
  - c. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this declaration prohibits all indoor public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of fifty persons or more anywhere in Medina County beginning at 1200 on March 18, 2020 and continuing for seven (7) days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.
  - d. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than fifty persons.
  - e. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
  - f. Definitions and further guidance:
    - i. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together fifty (50) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theater, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
    - ii. A Mass Gathering includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (1) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (2) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.
    - iii. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separated enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, so long as fifty people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where fifty or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as fifty or more people are not present in the space at the same

time. For any gathering covered by this subsection compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.

- iv. For purposes of clarity, a Mass Gathering does not include the following: (1) public or private school and places of worship; (2) museums (so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods); (3) Spaces where fifty or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops; (4) office space, hotels, or residential buildings; (5) grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; (6) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; and (7) jails and detention centers. In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow Social Distancing Recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph "d" is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space holds fifty or more people.
- v. "High-risk Populations" include people who are:
  - 1. 60 years old and older;
  - 2. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
  - 3. People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.
  - 4. People experiencing homelessness.
- vi. The Local Health Authority and Director of Health may update restrictions set out in this Exhibit as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the next 7 days and any extension by the Medina County Commissioners Court.

- II. All Medina County Courts including but limited to County Courts (with the exception of the County Commissioners Court functioning in its administrative capacity), District Court, Justice of the Peace courts, City Municipal Courts, are directed to the protocol established by the FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER issued March 13, 2020, jointly by the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. (See Exhibit 2).

Exhibit "2"

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

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Misc. Docket No. 20-9042

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**IN THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS OF TEXAS**

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Misc. Docket No. 20-007

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**FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING  
THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER**

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**ORDERED** that:

1. Governor Abbott has declared a state of disaster in all 254 counties in the State of Texas in response to the imminent threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. This order is issued pursuant to Section 22.0035(b) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Subject only to constitutional limitations, all courts in Texas may in any case, civil or criminal—and must to avoid risk to court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors, and the public—without a participant’s consent:
  - a. Modify or suspend any and all deadlines and procedures, whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor’s state of disaster has been lifted;
  - b. Allow or require anyone involved in any hearing, deposition, or other proceeding of any kind—including but not limited to a party, attorney, witness, or court reporter, but not including a juror—to participate remotely, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

c. Consider as evidence sworn statements made out of court or sworn testimony given remotely, out of court, such as by teleconferencing, videoconferencing, or other means;

d. Conduct proceedings away from the court's usual location, but in the county of venue, and only with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public;

e. Require every participant in a proceeding to alert the court if the participant has, or knows of another participant who has, COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, or a fever, cough or sneezing;

f. Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19.

3. All courts in Texas may extend the statute of limitations in any civil case for a stated period ending no later than 30 days after the Governor's state of disaster has been lifted.

4. This Order is effective as of March 13, 2020, and expires May 8, 2020, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

5. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. post a copy of this Order on [www.txcourts.gov](http://www.txcourts.gov);

b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and

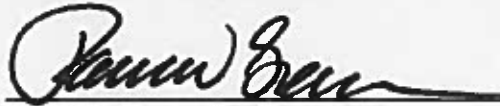
c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

6. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order.

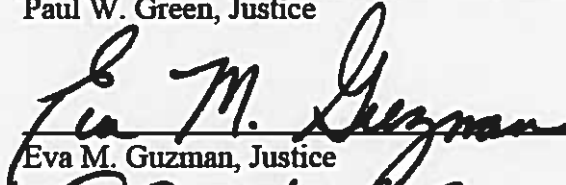
Dated: March 13, 2020



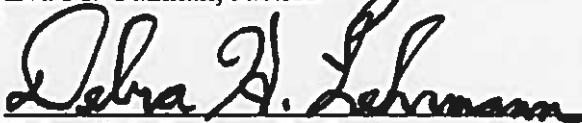
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



Paul W. Green, Justice



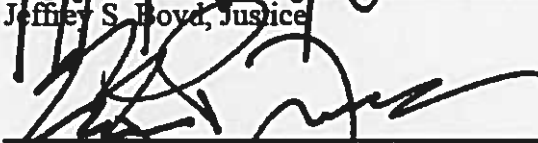
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



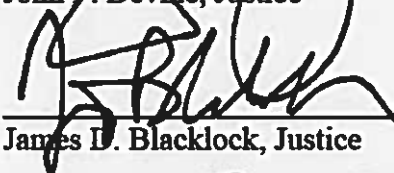
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



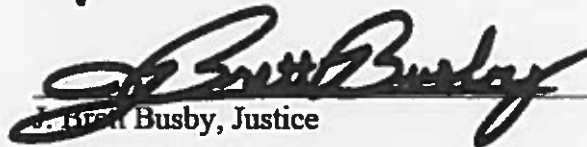
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



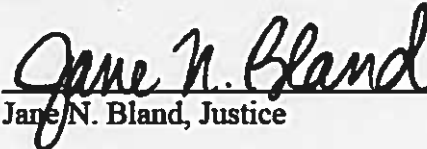
John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice

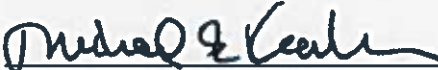


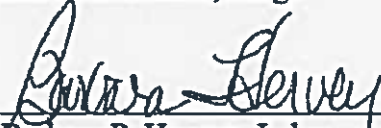
J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice

  
Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge


  
Michael Keasler, Judge

  
Barbara P. Hervey, Judge

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Bert Richardson, Judge

  
Kevin P. Yeary, Judge

  
David Newell, Judge

  
Mary Lou Keel, Judge

  
Scott Walker, Judge

  
Michelle M. Slaughter, Judge