



County of Dimmit
 Francisco G. Ponce
 County Judge

FILED

DATE: 3/18, 2020
 AT 4:01 O'CLOCK PM
MARIO Z. GARCIA
 County Clerk, Dimmit County, Texas

By Ruby Justice Deputy

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
 DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR
 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December, 2019, a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath causing death in some cases; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between those who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Dimmit County, that include the banning of 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 Texas Government Code Chapter 418;

NOW, THEREOFRE BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF DIMMIT COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Dimmit County, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
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 days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Dimmit, Texas.

This document to which this certificate is affixed is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file and of record in my office MARCH 18
 ATTEST: Mario Z. Garcia 2020
 COUNTY CLERK

BY Ruby Justice DEPUTY



A Certified Copy
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Attest: Mario Z. Garcia, County Clerk



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.
4. That, pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Dimmit County emergency management plan.
5. That gathering where 15 people or more are expected to attend are hereby suspended or cancelled, save and accept grocery stores, pharmacies and medical providing establishments.
6. That this executive order; takes effect immediately from and after its issuance.

In accordance with Texas Government Code 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order 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.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS FOR EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES, MITIGATION PROCEDURES AND RESPONSE PLANS TO THIS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

IN TESTIMONEY, WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the County seal to be affixed at my office in the County of Dimmit, Texas this 18th day of March 2020.



HONORABLE FRANCISCO G. PONCE
DIMMIT COUNTY JUDGE



A Certified Copy
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Attest: Mario Z. Garcia, County Clerk



This document to which this certificate is affixed is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file and of record in my office
 ATTEST: MARCH 18
 Mario Z. Garcia
 COUNTY CLERK
 BY: Ruby D. Garcia



County of Dimmit
Francisco G. Ponce
County Judge

NEWS RELEASE CORONAVIRUS

While there are currently no confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Dimmit County, the City of Carrizo Springs, Asherton, Big Wells, Brundage and Catarina and the County of Dimmit are taking action as a precautionary measure. Citing public health, safety and welfare, Dimmit County Judge Francisco G. Ponce on Wednesday jointly issued a ban on public gatherings consisting of 15 people or more.

Following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the two officials also committed to social distancing and are encouraging residents to take preventive action like hand washing, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and stay home when a person feels sick.

“The outbreak which has caused COVID-19 to spread throughout this nation and throughout the world has caused public health to be our number one concern at this time.”

The declaration issued by the local officials follows other measures outlined by President Donald Trump and Texas Governor Gregg Abbott.

“We recognize the seriousness of the pandemic and we realize the ramifications this order will have on local groups and activities. However, it is necessary for the safety of our community.”

Ponce, in his capacity as County Judge, issued an executive order declaring a local disaster for the public health emergency. The declaration was issued pursuant to Section 418.108 (a) of the Texas Government Code.

The local state of disaster signed by the Judge will expire after seven days unless it is extended by action of the Dimmit County Commissions Court. The court will consider the matter when it meets March 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.



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Attest: Mario Z. Garcia, County Clerk



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ATTEST: Mario Z. Garcia COUNTY CLERK
BY: Ruby Justice