



ORDER

BY

THE COUNTY JUDGE OF CALDWELL COUNTY

BE IT KNOWN:

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

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

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

WHEREAS, a large gathering of individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness and risks overwhelming current health care resources; and

WHEREAS, emergency action is required to take immediate steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of residents of Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions in our immediate area have taken steps to limit the size of gatherings in an effort to further address the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF CALDWELL COUNTY:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the governing body of Caldwell County, Texas and under Texas Government Code, Section 418.108, I DECLARE a local state of disaster within Caldwell County based on the threat posed by COVID-19.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above-cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being continued, renewed or authorized by the Commissioners Court.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this declaration activates the Caldwell County Emergency Management Program and all other emergency statutory and ordinance powers vested in the County Judge or other County officials.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance under the administration of such plans.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(g), the County Judge may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area under the jurisdiction and authority of the county judge and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this order prohibits community gatherings of 250 persons or more anywhere in Caldwell County effective immediately and continuing through the term of this disaster declaration, unless terminated or modified by another order or declaration.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that a violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 418.173 and adopted in the county emergency management plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

Pursuant to section 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.

This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
ORDERED this the 16th day of March, 2020.



Hoppy Haden
Caldwell County Judge

ATTEST:



Caldwell County Clerk

