

COUNTY OF RUNNELS
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
613 Hutchins Avenue
Runnels, Texas 76821

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, on March 13th, 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;

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Runnels 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 Texas Government Code Chapter 418;

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

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Runnels 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 Runnels County, Texas.

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 Runnels County emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.
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, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.
6. That gatherings where 10 people or more are expected to attend are hereby suspended or cancelled.
7. That this executive order takes effective 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.

In accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violated this order commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

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

IN TESTIMONY, WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name in the county of Runnels, Texas, this 20th day of March, 2020.



Hon. Barry Hilliard
Runnels County Judge