

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
ROCKWALL COUNTY §

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, now designated as SARS-CoV-2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread throughout the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump has proclaimed the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 Governor Greg Abbott issued a revised proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the State of Texas and declaring a state of disaster for all Texas counties and setting certain restrictions on mass or community gatherings, the operation of restaurants, bars and certain other establishments; and

WHEREAS, Rockwall County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Rockwall County by, among other things, declaring a state of local disaster in Rockwall County by Order dated March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing evaluation of circumstances related to the virus, updated recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services, as well as the revised proclamation from Governor Abbott, warrant additional action by Rockwall County to further protect the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster in Rockwall County consistent with Governor Abbott's revised proclamation will facilitate and expedite the procurement, use, and deployment of resources and take measures necessary to enhance Rockwall County's preparedness and response.

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

SECTION 1. I David Sweet, County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas, do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to Rockwall County. In accordance with Section 418.018 of the Texas Government Code, I hereby declare a state of disaster and public health emergency for Rockwall County.

SECTION 2. This declaration shall take effect immediately, superseding the previous Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health adopted on March 17, 2020, and shall continue for a period of not more than 7 days unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Rockwall County, Texas.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of a Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the Rockwall County Clerk.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the Rockwall County Emergency Management Plan.

SECTION 5. This declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people, except those described in Section 6 of this declaration, and mandates cancellation of all such scheduled or planned gatherings while this Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health is in effect.

SECTION 6. Gatherings limited by Section 6 of this declaration do not include: (1) places of employment; (2) office space, hotels or residential buildings; (3) grocery stores, shopping centers, outdoor markets; (4) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; (5) jails and detention centers; (6) transit facilities; (7) manufacturing facilities, and (8) governmental facilities providing essential services.

SECTION 7. No person shall eat or drink at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visit gyms or massage parlors; provided however, that the use of drive-thru, pick up, or delivery options are allowed.

SECTION 8. No person shall visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

SECTION 9. All meetings of any Rockwall County Board or Commission, specifically excluding the Rockwall County Commissioners Court, planned or schedule to occur during this Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health are cancelled.

SECTION 10. In accordance with Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code, a person who violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1000 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

This Declaration of a Local Disaster for Public Health supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms and shall remain in effect until extended, modified, amended, rescinded, superseded or expire by operation of law.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Sweet", written over a horizontal line.

David Sweet
Rockwall County Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelli Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Shelli Miller
Rockwall County Clerk