



City of Harker Heights
Office of the Mayor

DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER FOR
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has since spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. In some cases, the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout the City of Harker Heights, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals, and property and, additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE CITY OF HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Harker Heights, Texas pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. That pursuant to section 418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless extended by the City Council of Harker Heights, Texas.
3. That pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. That pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Harker Heights emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under this declaration.
5. That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including, but not limited to, the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, 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 City's rules and directives.
6. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than ten (10) people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than ten (10) people until further notice. A 'gathering' refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where ten (10) persons are present in a confined space, room or area.

7. In accordance with Texas Government Code section 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 per day and/or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.
9. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance, and upon approval of the City Council, shall continue in effect until terminated by the Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this the 20 day of March 2020.


Spencer H. Smith
City of Harker Heights Mayor

Filed with me, the City Secretary of the City of Harker Heights, on this 20 day of March 2020, by Mayor Spencer H. Smith.



Juliette Helsham, City Secretary





City of Harker Heights
Office of the Mayor

Local Disaster Declaration for Public Health Emergency.

COVID19

Directive #1

March 20, 2020

Summary: A Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency associated with COVID19 has been issued by City of Harker Heights Mayor Spencer H. Smith. In accordance with the Declaration, this Directive #1 is being issued.

The virus that causes the 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID19) is easily transmitted through person to person contact, 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 the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk that health care authorities have identified due to the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Directive #1 prohibits gatherings of persons of more than 10 persons anywhere in the County, under the specified terms and conditions set forth below, beginning at midnight tonight, March 18, 2020 and continuing until such time as a future Directive removes such prohibition.

For all gatherings and locations not included within this Directive, the Office of the Mayor and the Bell County Public Health District strongly recommend and urge actively practicing social distancing whenever and wherever possible. Additionally, the Office of the Mayor and Bell County Public Health District strongly urge individuals of high risk, those over 65 and with underlying health conditions, to cancel, reschedule or not attend events or gatherings that will have or will likely have 10 or more people.

Under the authority of Section 418.108, Texas Government Code, and Local Disaster Declaration of the City of Harker Heights, dated March 18, 2020, the following orders are hereby issued:

1. Public or private gatherings, as defined below, are prohibited anywhere in the City of Harker Heights. Said gatherings are:
 - a. A restaurant with or without drive-through services; drive-through restaurant; microbrewery, micro-distillery, or winery; however, any of these establishments may continue to provide take out, delivery or drive-through or drive-up services as may be allowed by law;
 - b. A location with alcoholic beverage consumption for on-premise consumption, including a bar, lounge, or tavern or private club; and

- c. Indoor recreational facilities, including gyms, health clubs, indoor amusement facilities, including, bowling alleys, pool halls and movie theaters.
2. For purposes of this Directive, a 'gathering' is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium, (indoor or outdoor), tent, arena, or event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
3. An 'outdoor gathering' is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure, and (ii) where people are present and they are within six (6) feet of one another for extended periods.
4. For purposes for clarity, a 'gathering' does not include the following, or other similar uses, so long as social distancing is being practiced:
 - a. Spaces where ten (10) or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as airports, bus stations, or terminals;
 - b. Office spaces, public and private schools, child-care facilities, residences, or any type of temporary sheltering or housing;
 - c. Grocery stores, convenience stores, shopping centers or malls, or other retail establishments where numbers might exceed ten (10) or more, but where it would be unusual for people to be within six (6) feet of one another for extended periods; and
 - d. Hospitals and medical facilities.
5. Failure to comply with this Directive is an offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per day or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.
6. This Directive shall be filed in the Office of the City Secretary and posted on the City of Harker Heights website. In addition, every owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is impacted by this Directive is encouraged to post a copy of this Directive onsite.

Directed and Ordered this 20th day of March, 2020.


Spencer H. Smith, Mayor
City of Harker Heights, Texas