

**DISASTER DECLARATION FOR
CITY OF PANHANDLE, TEXAS
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, designated as COVID-19, has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; 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, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19 and urged citizens to practice social distancing protocols; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot declared a state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19 and suspended multiple state statutes and rules to promote social distancing protocols; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot declared a second state of emergency related to the outbreak of COVID-19 and ordered: (1) that every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; (2) that people are prohibited from eating or drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts (except by drive-thru, pickup or delivery); (3) that people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and (4) that all schools in Texas shall be closed until April 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Carson County Judge, Dan Looten, declared a local state of disaster in Carson County related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of the COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code 418, Section 418.108 authorizes the Mayor of a local political subdivision to declare a local state of disaster and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and


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 Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and promote the health and safety of individuals in the City of Panhandle; and


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DELCARED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PANHANDLE, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Panhandle, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code; and
2. That, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Panhandle; and
3. That, 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 City Secretary; and
4. That, pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the applicable emergency operations plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration; and
5. That this declaration authorizes the City 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 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, pursuant to Section 122.005 of the Health and Safety Code.
6. That this declaration may be enforced by all lawful means available to the City.
7. That this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED on this 23rd day of March, 2020, at 4:25 (a.m./p.m.)


Doyle Robinson, Mayor
City of Panhandle, Texas

ATTEST:


City Secretary

