



County of Deaf Smith

235 EAST THIRD • ROOM 201 • 806-363-7000 • FAX 806-363-7022 • HEREFORD, TX 79045

DJ WAGNER
COUNTY JUDGE

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
C/O Chief Kidd
Texas Division of Emergency Management
P. O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

March 20, 2020

Dear Governor :

The County of Deaf Smith Texas, do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to Deaf Smith County

The novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV-2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. President Donald Trump has proclaimed the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency in the United States; and Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas;

The potential impact of this threat is:

The risk of spread of the infectious disease when necessary mitigation has not been put in effect for large gatherings

Costs have been incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 and are beginning to mount at the county and municipal levels.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capability of Deaf Smith County to control. Pursuant to §418.108 of the Texas Government Code, I am requesting that you declare a state of emergency for Deaf Smith County Texas, and issue appropriate directives to deal with the emergency.

Furthermore, I am asking that successive proclamations be issued and remain in effect until the threat of loss of life, injury, or damaged property is contained.

A timely response to this request would be appreciated.

Deaf Smith County Judge, D.J. Wagner

MAR 20 2020 AM 10:20



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Local Disaster Declaration

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV-2 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, President Donald Trump has proclaimed the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency in the United States; and Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, costs incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are beginning to mount at the county and municipal levels; and

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

WHEREAS, Deaf Smith County has already taken significant measures to prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Deaf Smith County citizens; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, D.J. Wagner, County Judge of Deaf Smith County, Texas, do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to Deaf Smith County. In accordance with Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, I hereby declare a state of disaster and public health emergency for Deaf Smith County.


Furthermore, consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I recommend, following the Presidents guidance on 3/17/2020, that public gatherings greater than 10 people be postponed or canceled.

This declaration shall take effect immediately from its issuance and shall continue for a period of not more than seven days unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Deaf Smith County Texas.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Deaf Smith County Clerk.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2020.


Deaf Smith County Judge, D.J. Wagner


Deaf Smith County Clerk, Rachel Garman

MAR 20 2020 AM 10:27