



Moore County

Rowdy Rhoades

Moore County Judge
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The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
c/o Chief
Texas Division of Emergency Management
P. O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

March 20, 2020

Dear Governor

As County Judge of Moore County, Texas, I do hereby certify that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to Moore 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 as Governor, we know that you have 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 the county to control. Pursuant to §418.108 of the Texas Government Code, I am requesting that you declare a state of emergency for Moore 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 property damage is contained.

A timely response to this request would be appreciated.


Rowdy Rhoades, Moore County Judge

BRENDA McKANNA
COUNTY CLERK

2020 MAR 20 PM 5:07

MOORE COUNTY, TEXAS

BY 
DEPUTY



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MOORE COUNTY, TEXAS DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

BRENDA MCKANNA
COUNTY CLERK

2020 MAR 20 PM 5:07

MOORE COUNTY, TEXAS

Brenda McKanna
DEPUTY

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

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly 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 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an Executive Order GA 08 certifying that COVID-19 poses an Imminent threat of Disaster in the state; and

WHEREAS, Moore County, Texas will implement the extraordinary measures as set forth in the Governor's Executive Order GA 08 to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; 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.

Summary: The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) 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 of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order prohibits social gatherings, of 10 persons or more anywhere in Moore County beginning at 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, as defined by Section 3 herein. For all other gatherings, the office of the Moore County Judge and the Moore County Hospital District strongly recommend following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 10 persons. The office of the Moore County Judge and the Moore County Hospital District also strongly urge individuals to cancel, reschedule, or not attend social gatherings that will have or will likely have 10 or more people. Additionally, the Office of the

Moore County Judge and the Moore County Hospital District urge in the strongest terms possible, high-risk individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to cancel, reschedule, or not attend any event.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108,
MOORE COUNTY JUDGE ROWDY RHOADES ORDERS:**

1. Definitions:

- a. For purposes of this Order, a "Social Gathering" is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together 10 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, gym, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- b. For purposes of clarity, a "Social Gathering" does not include the following so long as visitors are generally not within six (6) feet of one another for extended periods:
 - i. (i) spaces where 10 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stations; (ii) office space, schools, or residential buildings; (iii) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments, where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within six (6) feet of one another for extended periods; (iv) hospitals and medical facilities; and v) licensed daycare facilities, as long as they provide to the County Judge and adhere to a COVID-19 policy adopted by the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS). In all such settings, the Office of the Moore County Judge recommend following the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, and person hygiene measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible.
 - ii. Places of work including work sites, manufacturing and processing plants, and other locations of employment are not considered social gathering and are exempt from this order.

2. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:00 a.m. on March 26, 2020 unless an extension of this order is approved by the Commissioners Court of Moore County Social Gatherings (as defined in Section 1 above) are prohibited anywhere in Moore County

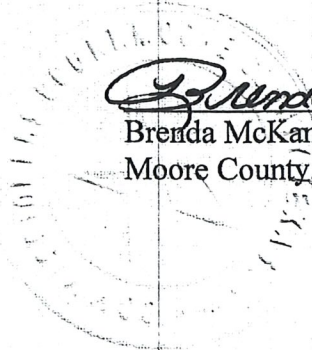
3. People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID-19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover. Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if their symptoms cannot be cared for in their home. And, when seeking medical care should call their doctor or healthcare facility before arriving to allow them to prepare.

4. This declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools, including but not limited to punishment by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days for any business or person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration as authorized by the Texas Government Code 418.173,

- a. Any retailer is prohibited from price gouging, or increasing prices of goods, materials, or resources during the term of this Emergency Order, or any extension thereof.

- b. Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowable by law, all restaurant dining rooms shall be closed to the public,
 - c. All bars, lounges, taverns, theaters, massage businesses, arcades, private clubs and gyms that are open to the public shall close.
5. In addition, the Office of the Moore County Judge strongly urges organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel all gatherings until further notice. These recommendations are based on the social distancing practices attached to this Order as well as the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The Office of the Moore County Judge urges people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Similarly, nursing homes, retirement homes, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
 6. The County of Moore must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Moore County website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.
 7. This declaration shall take effect simultaneously with the Governor's Executive Order GA-08 at 11:59pm March 20, 2020 and, upon approval by the Commissioners' Court, shall continue in effect until 11:59pm on April 19, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary or the declaration may be terminated if conditions warrant.

DECLARED this 20th day of March, 2020



Brenda McKanna
Brenda McKanna, County Clerk
Moore County, Texas

Rowdy Rhodes
Rowdy Rhodes, County Judge
Moore County, Texas

Social Distancing Recommendations

- 1) **Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings**
 - Vulnerable populations include people who are:
 - 60 years old and older
 - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
 - For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.
- 2) **Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**
 - Suspend nonessential employee travel.
 - Minimize the number of employees working within six (6) feet of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
 - Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
 - Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
 - Consider use of telecommuting options.
 - Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.
- 3) **Cancel Non-essential Events**
 - Cancel non-essential events.
 - Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
 - For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
 - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
 - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
 - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.
- 4) **Schools: Safety First**
 - Do not have your child attend school if sick.
 - If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
 - Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
 - Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
 - Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
 - Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.
- 5) **Transit: Cleaning and Protection**
 - Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
 - Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable

- Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

7) Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all Moore County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or waive.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.