

ORDINANCE NO. 20-101

**CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS
MAYOR DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization;

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

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;

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

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a State of National Emergency for the United States of America for COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued a State of Disaster for all Texas counties for COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Pecos County Judge Joe Shuster issued a Declaration of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency for Pecos County for COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community;

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.

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources;

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Local Disaster and Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation;

WHEREAS, I, Chris Alexander, the Mayor of the City of Fort Stockton have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Fort Stockton, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2. That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas 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 the same is continued by the City Council of the City of Fort Stockton, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Fort Stockton's emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 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 and directives.

SECTION 6. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to an indoor or outdoor event that brings together or is likely to bring together more than 10 people at the same time in a single space where people are present and within 6 feet of one another, without regard to the purpose of the gathering.

SECTION 7. That this declaration hereby orders the closure of and prohibits individuals to occupy bars, lounges, taverns, commercial amusement and entertainment establishments, game rooms, gyms, hair and nail salons, estheticians and other personal care businesses, spa and massage parlors, barber shops, tattoo parlors, piercing parlors, tanning salons, residential meeting spaces, event centers, hotel meeting spaces, outdoor plazas and markets, and retail stores that do not sell essential household goods. This declaration also closes worship services for in-person services, provided that needed employees can attend to produce audio/video services for transmission.

SECTION 8. That this declaration allows the following entities to continue doing business as long as they enforce social separation; grocery stores, stores selling essential household goods, convenience and package stores, pharmacies and drug stores, day care facilities, medical facilities, veterinary facilities, non-profit service providers, homeless and emergency shelters, office buildings, jails and essential government buildings, airports and transit facilities, residential building and hotel/motels, and manufacturing and distribution facilities. The entities listed in this section are not subject to the ten-person limit referenced in Section 6, but in all such locations, there must be sufficient space for all people to be 6 feet apart at all times to control infection. Where possible, a tracking list of the individuals present and their contact information shall be maintained.

SECTION 9. Notwithstanding the above restriction, this Declaration is not intended to apply to any business operations delivering essential services. Essential services means services, by whomsoever rendered, and whether rendered to the government or to any other person, the interruption of which would endanger life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population.

SECTION 10. That this declaration imposes a curfew for all citizens of the City of Fort Stockton. No individuals shall purposefully remain, walk, run, stand, drive or ride about in or upon any public place in the City between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am, with the exception of travelling to and from a place of work.

SECTION 11. If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function until cleared by a medical professional but may seek medical services as needed from medical personnel and facilities.


SECTION 12. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SECTION 13. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 14. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by 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 24th day of March, 2020.



Chris Alexander, Mayor
City of Fort Stockton, Texas

DISASTER RESTRICTIONS

Locations	Restrictions
<p>All gatherings without regard to purpose. No distinction between types of gatherings i.e. Social, community, recreational.</p>	<p>No more than 10 people. Practice social distancing – sufficient space for all people to be 6 feet apart at all times. Keep a tracking list of individuals and their contact information.</p>
<p>Bars, lounges, taverns Commercial amusement and entertainment Establishments Game Rooms Gyms, fitness classes, yoga and personal Training facilities, similar facilities and classes Private Clubs Hair and nail salons and barber shops Estheticians and related personal care Businesses Spas and massage parlors Tattoo and piercing parlors and tanning salons Residential meeting spaces Event centers Hotel/Motel meeting spaces Outdoor plazas and markets Retail stores that do not sell essential household goods</p>	<p>No occupancy permitted.</p>
<p>Food Establishments</p>	<p>In-house dining – closed. Drive-in, drive-through, take out, and delivery is permitted. Practice social distancing – sufficient space for all people to be 6 feet apart at all times. No more than 10 non-employees permitted inside at one time for pick-up and take-out orders. No eating or drinking is allowed inside of the establishments.</p>
<p>Worship Services</p>	<p>Closed for in-person services, provided that staff can attend to produce audio/video services.</p>
<p>Grocery Stores Stores selling essential household goods Convenience and package stores Pharmacies and drug stores Day care facilities Medical facilities Veterinary Facilities Non-profit service providers Homeless and emergency shelters Office buildings Jails Essential government buildings Airports and transit facilities Transportation systems Residential buildings and hotels/motels Manufacturing and distribution facilities</p>	<p>Practice social distancing – sufficient space for all people to be 6 feet apart at all times. Keep a tracking list of individuals and their contact information, wherever possible.</p>