



## TARRANT COUNTY

### DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the 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**, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Tarrant County; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, this Declaration activates the County's emergency management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Judge of Tarrant County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency;

**THEREFORE**, Be It Proclaimed by The County Judge of Tarrant County that:

1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Tarrant County, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. 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 Tarrant County Commissioners Court, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
3. This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
4. This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Tarrant County Emergency Plan, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
5. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

**ORDERED** this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

  
B. Glen Whitley, County Judge