

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KAUFMAN, TEXAS
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND ORDER**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), has spread throughout the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, and in some cases the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, the known cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the State of Texas are currently increasing daily and the disease is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, thus, it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect members of the public, to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and to safeguard public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Kaufman serves as the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, has designated the Kaufman Fire Chief, Ronnie Davis, as the coordinator and delegated to the coordinator the authority for execution of his duties and responsibilities as set forth in Article II, Emergency Management, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kaufman, Texas ("Article II"); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has determined it necessary to declare a local state of disaster due to public health emergency, and rather than exercising his authority to issue a declaration of local disaster for a seven-day period and seek extension or continuation by City Council, the Mayor has determined it necessary to present this Order to the City Council to take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 17, 2020 and to remain in effect until repealed by City Council; and

WHEREAS, because it is imperative that the City take action to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Council has reviewed current City functions, including the use of City facilities, City services and operations and public gatherings and has determined it necessary and appropriate to adopt this Declaration and Order for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED AND ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KAUFMAN, TEXAS:

Section 1. Incorporation of Premises. The premises set forth above are the stated findings of the City Council of the City of Kaufman, serve as the basis for and are incorporated into this Declaration as if written word for word.

Section 2. Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency Declared. A local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Kaufman, a Texas

home-rule municipal corporation, pursuant to Article II, Emergency Management, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Kaufman, Texas ("Article II") effective 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and shall continue in effect until discontinued by action of the Kaufman City Council or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 3. Publication and Filing of Declaration and Order. Pursuant to Section 30-32 of Article II, 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. The City of Kaufman will promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the City of Kaufman 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.

Section 4. Orders Adopted. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 122.006, the City may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals. Additionally, the City Council is authorized to adopt rules related to the use and operation of City facilities and the provision of City services. Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and continuing in effect until discontinued by action of the Kaufman City Council or as otherwise provided by law, the following orders shall apply within the corporate limits of the City of Kaufman:

- A. For purposes of this Order, **Community Gathering** is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together fifty (50) 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, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.
- B. The City of Kaufman strongly recommends canceling, rescheduling, or not attending a Community Gathering. The City of Kaufman strongly urge organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. These recommendations are based on the Social Distancing Practices attached to this Order as Exhibit "A", a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, 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 City of Kaufman urge people to not attend non-essential gatherings of any nature during the duration of this Order in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- C. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, school, daycares, or office tower.

- D. This Order also is not applicable to the following as long as visitors/patrons are not within arm's length of each other for extended periods of time:
- i. Office Space or residential buildings;
 - ii. Grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for people to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods of time; and
 - iii. Hospitals and medical facilities.

For any gathering covered by this subsection D, the City of Kaufman strongly encourages compliance with the attached Social Distancing Practices in Exhibit "A", including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

- E. The use of the following City facilities and activities are hereby prohibited:
- i. Sports Complex
 - ii. organized youth sports, including without limitation, baseball and soccer. Other activities such as use of walking trails, tennis courts and playgrounds are allowed with the use of social distancing required.
 - iii. City Hall shall be open to appointments only, i.e., permitting, plan review, new utility connects/disconnects. Payments can be made by mail, drop box, online or telephone.
 - iv. A phone number will be posted on the front door to contact the Police Department and an employee will meet the resident at the door.
- F. Nonessential Municipal Court shall be postponed in accordance with orders issues by the Presiding Judge.
- G. The City Manager is authorized to take necessary actions regarding fees associated with utility billing, including without limitation, extending time for payment and suspending utility shut offs for customers negatively impacted by job loss or reduced income who can provide verifiable documentation that their hardship is a direct result of COVID-19.

Section 5. Severability. 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.


PASSED AND APPROVED this the 16th day of March, 2020.



PATTY PATTERSON, MAYOR PRO TEM

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above notice of this Declaration and Order was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Kaufman, Texas, on the 17th day of March, 2020 at 12:30 p.m., was posted on the City of Kaufman website, and is on file in the Office of the Kaufman City Secretary.



JESSIE HANKS, CITY SECRETARY

Exhibit "A"

Social Distancing Practices

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 (of 10 people or more) 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 arm's length 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 sickleave 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) Large Gatherings: Cancel Non-Essential Events

- Recommend cancelling or postponing large gatherings, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions or large community 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 medium to large 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 screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- 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.
- Visitors should not go to long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

7) Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all Kaufman 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 wave.
- 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.