

DECLARATION OF DISASTER
(COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and is a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, as of March 17, 2020, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 located in multiple Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, as of this date there are no confirmed cases in Dawson County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lamesa has already taken steps to prepare for COVID-19, such as coordinating preparedness efforts across state and local agencies, and working with local partner to promote appropriate mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for the City of Lamesa to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Lamesa and the surrounding area;

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor declared a state of disaster for the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in light of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control regarding social distancing protocols, it is necessary to issue guidance regarding public and private gatherings in order to mitigate the spread of the disease and preserve and protect public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAMESA, TEXAS, that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to the City of Lamesa, and therefore:

- 1) Pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Lamesa, Texas; and
- 2) Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, 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 City Council of the City of Lamesa; and
- 3) Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary; and
- 4) Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the city's emergency management plan. The furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration is hereby authorized. The appropriate preparedness and response aspects of the plan are activated and take effect immediately after this local state of disaster is declared; and

- 5) The use of all available resources of the City of Lamesa that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster are hereby authorized; and
- 6) To the extent permitted by law, any local ordinance or administrative rule prescribing the procedures of conduct of City business or any local ordinance or administrative rule that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster, including any local ordinance or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement which would impede the City's emergency response necessary to cope with this declared disaster, are hereby suspended, but only for the duration of this declared local disaster and only for the limited purpose; and
- 7) Pursuant to §418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code, the Mayor of the City of Lamesa may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area within the incorporated limits of the City of Lamesa and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area; and
- 8) Pursuant to §122.006 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, the City of Lamesa may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease; and
- 9) The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, 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 an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety; and
- 10) Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings of 50 persons or more, anywhere in the City of Lamesa, beginning at **5:30 P.M. on March 17, 2020**; and
- 11) For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that citizens adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
- 12) Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow the Social Distancing Protocols; and
- 13) Definitions and further guidance:
 - a. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications set forth below, that brings together, or is likely to bring together, 50 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, and without limitations, an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
 - b. A "Mass Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and

(ii) where people are present and they are typically within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. A "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:

- (i) Public or private schools;
- (ii) Licensed day care facilities;
- (iii) Places of worship;
- (iv) Weddings and funerals;
- (v) Hotels or residential buildings;
- (vi) Grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other trail establishments where large numbers of people are present but where it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
- (vii) Hospitals, medical facilities, and shelters; and
- (viii) Jails and detention centers.

In all such settings, it is recommended that the public voluntarily follow Social Distancing Protocols and harm reduction measures such as providing hand sanitizer and tissues, when possible. However, any large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph is subject to the prohibition on the Mass Gatherings if the space holds 50 or more people.

d. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, such as a multiples movie theater, so long as 50 or more people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 50 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 50 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection, compliance with Social Distancing Protocols, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, is strongly encouraged.

e. "High-Risk Populations" include people who are:

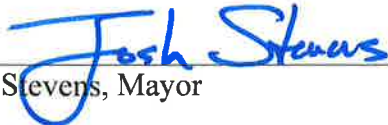
- (i) 60 years old and older;
- (ii) People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
- (iii) People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks; and
- (iv) People experiencing homelessness.

14) The Mayor may update the mass gathering restrictions set out in this Declaration as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the Disaster Declaration issued on this date and any extension of the Declaration by the City Council of the City of Lamesa; and

15) That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

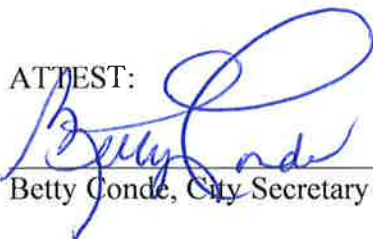
SO DECLARED and ORDERED on March 17, 2020, at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

FOR THE CITY OF LAMESA TEXAS:



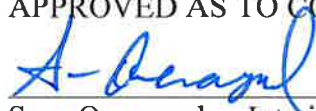
Josh Stevens, Mayor

ATTEST:



Betty Conde, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Sean Overeynder, Interim City Manager