

RANDALL COUNTY JUDGE

ORDER CLOSING COUNTY FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AND AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, a pandemic has been declared by the World Health Organization regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus and its resulting illness, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions are at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that symptoms of COVID-19 can range from very mild to severe, including illness resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Texas declared a state of disaster because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, among the President's coronavirus guidelines for America issued on March 16, 2020, and renewed on March 30, 2020, citizens are encouraged to work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Randall County Judge declared a local state of disaster because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued an executive order in response to COVID-19 that every person in Texas avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people and closing schools; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court extended the County Judge's declaration of disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court entered an Order Closing County Facilities to the Public to Control the Spread of COVID-19 and Authorizing Compensation for Employees, which was set to expire on the earlier of April 3, 2020, when the Governor's March 19, 2020, executive order is lifted or when the order is lifted or modified by action of the Randall County Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued an executive order in response to COVID-19 that extended school closures to May 4, 2020 and ordered every person in Texas to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Randall County Commissioners Court approved the Health Order from the Amarillo Area Public Health District issued on March 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, child-care facilities may also be closed in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public emergency; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of COVID-19 is an unforeseen circumstance that could not, through the use of reasonably diligent thought and attention, have been taken into account in the current budget and limiting its spread is a matter of grave public necessity; and

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Sections 418.108 and 418.1015 authorize the Randall County Judge to declare a local state of disaster and exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and promote the health and safety of individuals in Randall County; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of the County of Randall, Texas has determined from the statements and information provided by the Office of the President of the United States, the United States Centers for Disease Control, the Office of the Texas Governor, the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo Area Public Health District, City of Amarillo Public Health Department personnel, health professionals and other emergency service agencies serving Randall County, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas, that extraordinary measures must be taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 in Randall County, Texas and to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE RANDALL COUNTY JUDGE:

- A. All county buildings, with the exception of the Justice Center and Randall County Annex, are closed to the public. All essential county services shall be continued. Employees whose presence is not needed to continue essential services shall not report to work in county facilities. To the extent feasible, county employees shall work remotely.
- B. Employees who, as a result of this order, are unable to report to work or work remotely shall continue to be paid and receive benefits as if they continued to work their usual and customary hours.

This order is effective April 3, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., and shall continue in effect until the earlier of the date the Texas Governor rescinds his March 13, 2020 declaration of disaster or when the Randall County Judge or Randall County Commissioners Court rescinds or modifies this order.

Ordered this 2 day of April, 2020 at 2:50 o'clock P.m.



Ernie Houdashell
Ernie Houdashell, County Judge

ATTEST:

Susan B. Allen
Susan Allen, County Clerk