



\*UG-98-2020-26698\*

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COUNTY JUDGE  
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March 2, 2020

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, as Bexar County Judge, I recently expressed my concerns regarding evacuees, inappropriate accommodations, and the risk of exposure during transport and the need for additional monitoring as well as the need for extended quarantine periods;

WHEREAS, on February 18th, I issued a letter to representatives of the federal government expressing my concerns and on February 24<sup>th</sup>, joined the Mayor of San Antonio in issuing a joint letter expressing the same and asked that no individual testing positive while at Lackland be transported into the Bexar County community. To date, no response or even an acknowledgement of those concerns has been received and an individual was transported into the community who had tested positive; and

WHEREAS, of even date of this declaration of a local state of disaster on behalf of Bexar County, the Mayor of the City of San Antonio has issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, in an abundance of caution, and to protect the unincorporated areas of Bexar County and the remaining 26 municipalities contained within Bexar County, I, Nelson W. Wolff am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975; and

WHEREAS, Bexar County will continue to work collaboratively with the Mayor of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County employees as well as the local health authority to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to date, ten (10) persons evacuated to Lackland have tested positive for the virus and that number is likely to increase, as testing continues; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, February 29, 2020, one of the persons in Cohort 1 who had tested positive for COVID-19 and subsequently tested negative on two tests was released from quarantine. However, this person tested positive for the virus on a third test, with results coming in after release and may have potentially exposed the public to the virus; and

WHEREAS, the person has been returned to quarantine at Lackland while the CDC and local health authorities are taking steps to ensure the community is kept safe and the exposure risk is minimized; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to the preserve and protect the public health of the residents of Bexar County that those quarantined persons at Lackland remain within the confines of those safe, secure facilities during the quarantine period following their exposure to the virus; and

WHEREAS, following the release of the person from Cohort 1 and positive test after that release, the imminent movement of those quarantined at Lackland by the CDC to other facilities within the Bexar County, including transport to the airports within Bexar County for travel to other secure locations, increases the risks to the residents of Bexar County, creates a public health threat, and requires the County to mitigate the risk of disease and manage the concerns of residents in and around Bexar County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County, and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

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; and

WHEREAS, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge 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 County's response to this situation; and

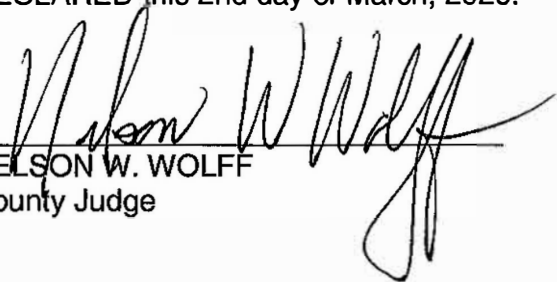
WHEREAS, I, Nelson W. Wolff, the County Judge and presiding officer of Bexar County, have determined that in order to remain consistent with the Declaration of Public Health Emergency issued by the City of San Antonio, extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and 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 throughout Bexar County and within the remaining 26 municipal jurisdictions in Bexar County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF BEXAR:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Bexar County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- 2.t Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.t
- 3.t Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.t
- 4.t Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates Bexar County's emergency management plan.t

5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Bexar County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, and regulating ingress and egress into or throughout Bexar County.
6. Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Bexar, I declare that ingress into and travel throughout Bexar County and the remaining 26 municipalities from Lackland by those persons that have been quarantined in the facility is not permitted. No previously quarantined person shall be permitted to enter Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, or any of the other 26 municipalities throughout Bexar County until further notice.

This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.  
DECLARED this 2nd day of March, 2020.

  
NELSON W. WOLFF  
County Judge

**FILE INFORMATION**

**Document Number: 26698**  
**Date/Time: 3/2/2020 4:12:05 PM**  
**Total Pages: 3**  
**FILED IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC**  
**RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY**  
**LUCY ADAME – CLARK**  
**BEXAR COUNTY CLERK**  
**Total Fees: \$0.00**