



**NELSON W. WOLFF
COUNTY JUDGE**

PAUL ELIZONDO TOWER
101 W. NUEVA STREET, SUITE 1019
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-3482
(210) 335-1326 • FAX (210) 335-2926
Email - nwolff@bexar.org

March 13, 2020

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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 which is effective as of March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, 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 to be consistent with the public Declaration issued as of this date by the City of San Antonio and to declare a public health emergency in order to implement certain directives as further set out herein;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, officials from Bexar County/City of San Antonio confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Bexar County will continue to work collaboratively with the Mayor of the City of San Antonio, Mayors of Bexar County's Suburban Cities, 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 within Bexar County;

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;

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;

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;

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.

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

- 1.e 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.e
- 2.e 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.e
- 3.e 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.e
- 4.e 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 as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.e
- 5.e 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 throughout Bexar County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Bexar County and any impacted areas.e
- 6.e Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Bexar, in coordination and consultation with the Local Health Authority and the City of San Antonio further issue additional guidance and restrictions as set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters effective until further notice for the duration of this Declaration, attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit "1."**
- 7.e As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Bexar, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.e

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 13th day of March, 2020.

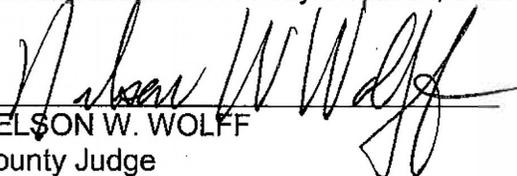

NELSON W. WOLFF
County Judge

Exhibit "1"

Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Other Matters

I. Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of 500 persons or more anywhere in Bexar County beginning at 11:30 AM on March 13, 2020 and continuing for seven (7) days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.
- 3) For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf), including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons.
- 4) Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
- 5) Definitions and further guidance:
 - a) For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together five hundred (500) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, 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) 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 within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c.e This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple,e separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, so long as 500 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 500 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 500 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.e

d.e For purposes of clarity, a "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:e (i) San Antonio International Airport; (ii) public or private schools and places of worship; (iii) museums (so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods); (iv) spaces where 500 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops;(v) office space, hotels, or residential buildings; (vi) grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but 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 follow Social Distancing Recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph d. is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space holds 500 or more people.e

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

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

6.e The Local Health Authority and Director of Health may update restrictions set out in this Exhibit as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of

this outbreak during the duration of the next 7 days and any extension by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

- II. I hereby direct Bexar County officials and medical staff to work together to implement enhanced screening and monitoring processes and procedures for detection of COVID-19 in our inmate population at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center in order to mitigate risk to county staff and the public to include appropriate screening prior to entry, during detention and prior to release;
- III. All jury panels in County courts-at-law, district courts, Justice of the Peace courts and the City of San Antonio municipal courts are hereby suspended by special order of Administrative Judge Ron Rangel; and
- IV. Due to the public health emergency, I hereby direct that Bexar County rental property owners temporarily suspend evictions for at least the next 30 days to prevent renters from being displaced.

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RECORDS OF BEXAR COUNTY

LUCY ADAME - CLARK

BEXAR COUNTY CLERK

Total Fees: \$0.00