

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF GALVESTON §

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, the County of Galveston, Texas is under imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the illness known as COVID-19 and the response thereto; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Galveston County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and to protect or rehabilitate property; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which COVID-19 could escalate constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance;

BE IT THEREFORE DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF GALVESTON COUNTY:

1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Galveston County, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services on the date of this declaration:
 - a. groceries, beverages, toilet articles, toilet paper, bottled water, ice
 - b. medicine, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment and supplies
 - c. cleaning and sanitation supplies

3. This state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the County Commissioners Court.
4. This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
5. This declaration clarifies and/or modifies Galveston County Policy HR027. Personnel who are specifically activated by the Office of Emergency Management for this disaster and eligible to receive overtime rates of time and one half for hours worked above the thresholds set forth in HR027 shall be eligible for such overtime rates for as long as this declaration is in effect. Such overtime eligibility does not depend on whether County offices are open or closed, and any portion of HR027 which states or implies otherwise is hereby modified.
6. This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Galveston County Emergency Management Plan.
7. This declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under this Declaration and the preparedness and response aspects of the plans are activated as provided in the plans.
8. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
9. A violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the county's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 17 day of MARCH, 2020.


County Judge

Filed with the Clerk of County on, March 18 2020.