

**COUNTY OF BREWSTER, TEXAS  
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, John W. Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, issued a Declaration of a Public Health Disaster in the State of Texas certifying that the introduction and spread of the communicable disease known as COVID-19 in the State of Texas has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA 08 providing that COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, Brewster County, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease within our community and the imminent threat of spread from outside the County through visitors, including but not limited to recreational visitors/travelers; and

**WHEREAS**, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Brewster County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

**SECTION 2.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless approved by the Commissioners Court of Brewster County, Texas.

**SECTION 3.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

**SECTION 4.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Brewster County, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.

**SECTION 6.** That pursuant to this declaration, it is hereby ordered that the size of gatherings is limited to not more than 10 people and this order mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area as addressed in Order No. 2 of Executive Order GA 08 from the Governor stating that "in accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people."

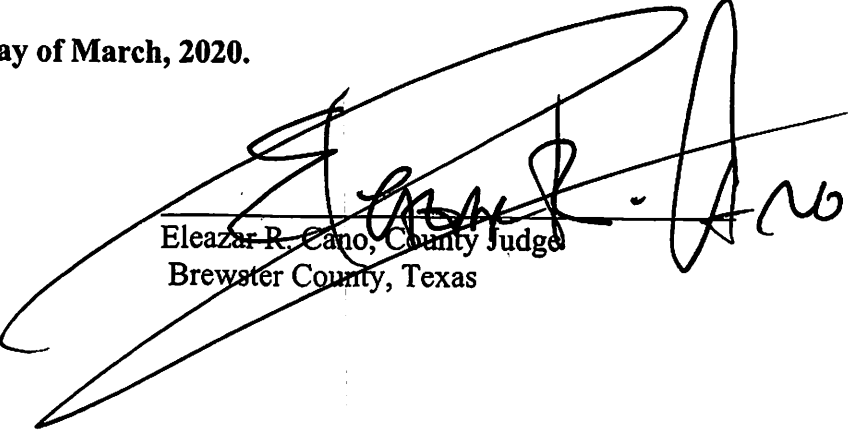
**SECTION 7.** That pursuant to this declaration, it is hereby ordered that all restaurants be closed for dine-in services and restaurants are only authorized to serve takeout orders and all bars/taverns and gyms are closed as addressed in Order No. 2 of Executive Order GA 08 from the Governor stating that "in accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order."

**SECTION 8.** In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

**SECTION 9.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 10.** That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this 25 day of March, 2020.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge  
Brewster County, Texas