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*Debra Hester*  
County & District Clerk, Briscoe County, Texas

# BRISCOE COUNTY

## COUNTY OF BRISCOE, 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**, **Briscoe County** 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** **Briscoe County**, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; 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 BRISCOE COUNTY, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for BRISCOE 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 BRISCOE 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 Briscoe 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.

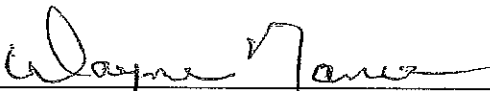
**SECTION 6.** That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 250 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 250 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 250 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.

**SECTION 7.** 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 8.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 9.** 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Judge  
Briscoe County, Texas

**In addition to the above Declaration the Briscoe County Commissioners Court have implemented the following curfew:**

The Commissioner's Court of Briscoe County, Texas, adopts the following juvenile curfew as authorized by Texas Local Government Code 351.903.

Any minor under the age of 17 commits an offense by remaining in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the County during curfew hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and the hours of 11:59 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

The following situations are exemptions to the curfew: if the minor was accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian; engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop; or involved in an emergency.

An offense under this curfew is a Class C misdemeanor.