

**DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
CITY OF STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS**

WHEREAS in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, with symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath and with outcomes ranging from mild to severe illness and in some cases, death; and

WHEREAS on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of cases that have spread into the United States and the identification of "community spread" cases of COVID-19 in the United States signals that transmission of the virus is occurring; and

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

WHEREAS the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS Governor Greg Abbott issued a State of Disaster for all Texas counties for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS President Donald Trump declared a State of National Emergency for the United States of America on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS Mayor Doug Svien issued a Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for the City of Stephenville for COVID-19 on March 15, 2020; 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 of Local Disaster and Public Health Emergency, the Stephenville City Council declares 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 under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Stephenville City Council authorizes the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Stephenville has determined that 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY

1. A State of Disaster and Public Health Emergency is hereby declared for the City of Stephenville, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. 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 City Secretary, pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code.
3. The City's Emergency Operations Plan is activated and implemented, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code.
4. The City Council of the City of Stephenville authorizes the city manager to promulgate such regulations as he deems necessary to protect life and property and preserve critical resources while a state of disaster is in effect.
5. This Declaration authorizes the City to temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements, pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Texas Government Code.
6. This Declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.
7. This declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 2. SELF-QUARANTINE

1. Pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 122.006, any individual – adult or child – having traveled and visited, within the ten (10) days prior to this Declaration, any Level 3 country as established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and returning to Stephenville, Texas, must be quarantined at home for 14 days.

2. Pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 122.006, any individual – adult or child – having traveled via any cruise ship within the ten (10) days prior to this Declaration, and returning to Stephenville, Texas, must be quarantined at home for 14 days.

SECTION 3. CLOSURE OF CITY FACILITIES

In order to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 virus to the citizens of Stephenville, the City of Stephenville is implementing the following closures.

1. **Airport** – Terminal is to remain open, however no group meetings will be held or scheduled.
2. **City Hall** – Front doors will be locked and the public will be admitted to the building by appointment only. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours. Employees who do not have an office in City Hall will be able to make appointments by telephone or by email.
3. **Library** – Closed to the public and all programs cancelled. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours. Returns will be accepted through the outside receptacles.
4. **Municipal Service Center** – Front doors will be locked and the public will be admitted to the building by appointment only. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours.
5. **Park Facilities** – Closed to the public and all programs cancelled.
6. **Public Safety**
 - i. *Fire Station No. 2* – Front doors will be locked. Those seeking assistance may contact fire personnel by using the intercom in the front of the building or by calling 254-918-1273 from their home or cell phone.
 - ii. *Police Department* – Front doors will be locked. Those seeking assistance may contact dispatch by picking up the phone in the front of the building or by calling 254-918-1273 from their home or cell phone.
7. **Recreation Center** – Closed to the public and all programs cancelled.
8. **Senior Citizens Center** – Closed to the public; all programs and activities will be cancelled.
9. **Meetings** – All public meetings will be cancelled or delayed.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITED AND LIMITED GATHERINGS

1. This Declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice.
2. This Declaration does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate, enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as different floors of multi-level office, residential building, or hotel, so long as more than 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time.

3. This limit does not apply to office buildings, government buildings, critical infrastructure, grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, retail stores, manufacturing locations, non-profit service providers, day cares, and medical facilities.
4. This Declaration hereby orders that a restaurant with or without drive-in or drive-through services; drive-in restaurant; drive-through restaurant; or other food service businesses providing food or drink for consumption on the premises (including those ancillary to other uses) may only provide take out, curbside take out, delivery, drive-in or drive-through services. Food service businesses in medical facilities that would otherwise be open to the public may still operate to serve the medical facility, but shall not be open to the public, except as provided above.
5. This Declaration hereby limits occupancy of a bar, lounge, or tavern; commercial amusement; theatre; gym; and private club to no more than 10 people.

SECTION 5. REPORTING OF COVID-19 TESTS.

1. All public, private, and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Stephenville and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period (1) the number of COVID-19 tests performed and (2) the number of positive COVID-19 tests to Jimmy Chew, Director of Emergency Management for the City of Stephenville if the specimen is collected, or the test is performed, in the City of Stephenville.
2. Such laboratories shall not provide names or other individually identifiable health information that could be used to identify an individual patient. This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

SECTION 6. POSTING OF THESE REGULATIONS.

The owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by these regulations shall post a copy of these regulations onsite and visible to users of the facility and provide a copy to any user of the facility asking for a copy.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of these regulations or any application of them to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of these regulations.

SECTION 8. SUSPENSION AND MODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES.

1. Any ordinance, order, or regulation that would prevent temporary sheltering and housing by the City, State of Texas, or the Federal Government in response to the declared disaster are suspended or modified as necessary to make these regulations effective.
2. Any ordinance or regulation imposing a time requirement for approving or denying an application or for appealing a city decision is tolled.

3. Any ordinances or regulations that conflict with these regulations are suspended or modified as necessary to make these regulations effective.
4. Suspension or modification of the ordinances and regulations shall remain in effect until these regulations are terminated or until the state of disaster is terminated, whichever is sooner.

SECTION 9. PENALTIES

1. These emergency regulations shall have the effect of an ordinance when duly filed with the city secretary.
2. A person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$2,000.

SECTION 10.

This Declaration shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on March 19, 2020 and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on March 26, 2020.

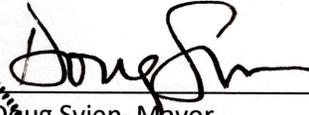
ORDERED THIS the 18th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:



Staci L. King, City Secretary





Doug Svien, Mayor