



## **4<sup>th</sup> Amended Declaration of Local Disaster and Public Health Emergency Issued: June 23, 2020**

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**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) 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**, the virus is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever, similar to the influenza where in severe cases it can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties according to WHO; and

**WHEREAS**, there are those with those symptoms who have traveled to or been in contact with an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the disease can be fatal but only in older individuals and those with other medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the pandemic, President Donald J. Trump announced travel restrictions to several countries confirmed to have cases of the coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19; 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 31, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an

Executive Order (No. GA-14) related to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. We are requesting all county residents to adhere to said Executive Order; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an Executive Order (No. GA-16) relating to the safe, strategic reopening of select services "Essential Services" as the first step to open Texas, in response to the COVID-19 disaster. Furthermore, we are requesting all county residents to adhere to said Executive Order; and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump has invoked the Stafford Act, which will allow state and local governments to access federal disaster relief funds; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge is designated as the Emergency Management Director of Guadalupe County, and may exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code provides that the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision may declare a state of local disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to the disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, 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 Disaster and Public Health Emergency, I declare 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 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, Kyle Kutscher, the County Judge of Guadalupe County have 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 impacted by COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, in order to remain consistent with the declaration of the Texas Department of State Health Services and the executive orders issued by Governor Greg Abbott; and to enforce uniform requirements statewide, I hereby rescind my previous executive order as issued on May 19, 2020, and hereby issue this executive order in its place.

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

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for Guadalupe County, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and Texas Government Code Section 418.108(a).
2. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of emergency and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration activates the county emergency management plan.
4. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
5. This declaration shall be in effect until The Texas Governor's order is removed or expired, as approved by Guadalupe County Commissioners Court, unless rescinded by The County Judge or Commissioners Court.

**ORDERED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2020.



Kyle Kutscher  
Guadalupe County Judge

ATTEST:

Teresa Kiel  
Guadalupe County Clerk