## LEE NORMAN

COUNTY JUDGE ~ GARZA COUNTY (806) 495-4405 · FAX (806) 495-2231 POST, TEXAS 79356

## A JOINT DECLARATION BY THE GARZA COUNTY JUDGE AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POST OF A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AMENDED

**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,** Garza 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 GARZA COUNTY, TEXAS AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POST:

- **SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Garza County, Texas, and The City of Post 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 Garza County, Texas and the City Council of The City of Post.
- **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 and the Secretary of the City of Post.
- **SECTION 4.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Garza County, Texas, and The City of Post emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the County and the City 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 and the City, 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 or City's rules and directives.

**SECTION 6.** That 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. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.

**SECTION 7.** That this declaration limits the number of customers in any convenience store and other small businesses to 10 or less at any one time. Spacing of customers must be at a minimum of 6 feet distance. This may allow more than 10 people in the same common area, but only if the capacity conforms to limitations described above.

**SECTION 8.** That this declaration encourages everyone to stay at home, except taking care of essential needs. The intent of these orders are to promote safety to all citizens. Responsibility for your personal safety is your responsibility and for the safety of your family and neighbors.

**SECTION 9.** That all businesses, as approved by the Governor of Texas, shall follow Executive Order No. GA-21 relating to the expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster. It is encouraged that businesses take all precautions to support social distancing of at least six feet, use face shields or masks and use appropriate cleaning methods as needed.

**SECTION 10.** 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.

**SECTION 11.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 12.** That this declaration shall take effect at the time stated. After its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court and the City Council of The City of Post, shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge and Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge and Mayor at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this the 14<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2020 to be effective on May 15<sup>th</sup> with an expiration date of May 22, 2020.

Mayor City of Post County Judge Garza County, Texas

day of May

JIM PLUMMER

OUNTY CLERK, GARZAGOUNTY, TEXAS

DEDuty