

**CITY OF BRONTE, TEXAS
MAYORAL 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, the City of Bronte, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; that includes the banning of community gatherings of over 10 people and, additionally, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional measures that prevent or control the spread of disease;

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 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BRONTE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for City of Bronte, 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 continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Bronte, 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 City Secretary.

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

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes 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 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 City's rules, pursuant to Section 122.005 of the Health and Safety Code.

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. For purposes of this declaration, a gathering does not include the following:

- a. A government-owned facility or a facility in which government business is being conducted;
- b. Public schools;
- c. Places of worship;
- d. Commercial businesses

SECTION 7. That individuals at increased risk of severe illness are advised to shelter in place and remain within the confines of their homes.

SECTION 8. That for essential meetings, groups are encouraged to consider holding audio/visual meetings instead and promote telecommuting. Groups must adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the CDC at all gatherings.

SECTION 9. Operators of public facilities must provide ways for patrons to maintain safe social distancing, maintaining six feet of separation between individuals; have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available; and frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops, handrails, and doorknobs. Drive-through and takeout services for patrons are strongly advised and encouraged.

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 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

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

SECTION 12. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas, shall continue in effect until terminated by the Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED this 20th day of March 2020.




Paul Gohman, Mayor
City of Bronte, Texas