



## **IN THE CITY OF SOUR LAKE, STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF HARDIN, BE IT KNOWN:**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel (new) coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; 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, 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 Director-General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States of America, Donald John Trump, declared the COVID-19 global pandemic as a National Emergency. Subsequently, Texas Governor Gregory Abbott declared a State of Disaster to include all 254 Texas Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into and throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over 4,400 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States resulting in the death of at least 90 American citizens. The number of confirmed cases in the United States has increased by over 100% during the past 48-72 hours; and

**WHEREAS**, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus 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**, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risks, and promote the health and safety of all residents throughout Hardin County; and

**WHEREAS**, Hardin County will work collaboratively with all municipalities, school districts and other local, State and federal entities as necessary to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and contagion of COVID-19 throughout the County, Region and State; and

**WHEREAS**, a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens, and are hereby ordered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED:**

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Texas as the presiding officer of the governing body, I hereby DECLARE a local state of disaster within the entire boundaries of Sour Lake Hardin County, Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(a)

This State of Disaster shall continue for a period of seven (7) days from the date of this DECLARATION unless continued or renewed by the Mayor and City Council pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(b).

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance. This DECLARATION of a Local Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, and shall be filed promptly with the Hardin County Clerk pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(c).

The Hardin County Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated, and all other statutory powers vested in me, and all Officers of the City of Sour Lake Hardin County, to act in this local state of disaster are hereby initiated. This declaration activates the response, recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local and/or interlocal emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(d).

**ORDERED** this 17 day of March, 2020.



**Bruce Robinson, Mayor**  
**City of Sour Lake, Texas**



# City of Sour Lake

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March 17, 2020  
For Immediate Release  
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## **EMERGENCY ORDER AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conjunction with the National Emergency Declaration issued by President Donald J. Trump, the State of Emergency for all 254 Texas Counties as declared by Governor Greg Abbott on March 13, 2020, and the Disaster Declaration issued by Mayor Bruce Robinson on March 17, 2020, I, the duly elected County Judge of Hardin County, Texas do hereby issue the following **ORDER REGARDING THE OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES THROUGHOUT SOUR LAKE HARDIN COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING WITHIN ALL INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES:**

By the authority granted me pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, a Disaster Declaration has been issued effective March 17, 2020. Additionally, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(d)(g), I hereby issue the following Orders:

- 1) Any event sponsored or permitted by Hardin County shall cease effective immediately.
- 2) Events greater than 50 persons shall cease at all locations throughout Hardin County.
- 3) Nursing homes and senior living centers shall limit visitation of the public within their facilities.
- 4) It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place immediately throughout Hardin County for all individuals who:
  - a. are under the age of 18,
  - b. are not in school,
  - c. are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent or guardian, or
  - d. are not going directly to their place of employment or going directly home from that place of employment.
- 5) This Order does not apply to special needs students during the times local school districts are required by federal law to provide services to those.

WHEREAS, this state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

It is therefore Ordered that the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon execution of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or this Order may be amended:

## **PRICE CONTROLS**

A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services prior to March 12, 2020:

- a. groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice;
- b. construction and building materials and supplies and earthmoving equipment and machinery;
- c. electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and accessories;
- d. charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns;
- e. hand tools (manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental;
- f. automotive parts, supplies and accessories;
- g. plumbing and electrical tools and supplies;
- h. apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental;
- i. gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants;
- j. restaurant, cafeteria and boarding house meals;
- k. services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies;
- l. medicine, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies;
- m. blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed liners, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsheets, bedsteads, towels and toilet paper; and
- n. furniture and clothing.

## **PENALTIES**

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 (Five hundred dollars) per offense.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made in order to preserve, protect and defend the life and safety of all citizens of Sour Lake Hardin County:

- a) All non-essential travel should be suspended.
- b) Conduct all business electronically or via telephone to the greatest extent possible.
- c) Although this Order specifies no events with greater than 50 persons, it is recommended to keep all gatherings to less than 10 people.
- d) Practice Social Distancing (The practice of limiting contact to prevent the spread of infection or disease). Avoid:
  - a. group gatherings
  - b. malls and stores
  - c. sporting events
  - d. gym workouts
  - e. concerts
  - f. sleepovers and play dates
  - g. movie theaters
  - h. restaurants and bars
  - i. cruise / air travel
  - j. visitors to your home
  - k. indoor play spaces
- e) Practice thorough self-hygiene
  - a. cover coughs/sneezes
  - b. do not touch your face
  - c. stop handshaking - use other non-contact methods of greeting
  - d. clean hands properly and schedule regular handwashing routines
  - e. promote tap and pay to limit handling of cash
  - f. disinfect surfaces often (doorknobs, tables, desk, handrails)
  - g. increase ventilation by opening windows and adjusting air conditioning

## CITY OPERATIONS

This Order does NOT extend to law enforcement activities and/or emergency response operations of Hardin County or any Incorporated City within CITY.

All City of Sour Lake Employees must report for work as required by their supervisors. All work related travel of City employees shall cease.

The Elected Officials of Sour Lake Hardin County shall determine the scope of operations of City employees.

This order shall become effective at 7:00AM on Tuesday March 17, 2020 and extend for duration of 30 days, and may be extended or amended as necessary.

**SIGNED** this 17 day of March, 2020 at 7:37PM



**Bruce Robinson, Mayor**  
**City of Sour Lake, Texas**