
ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
FOR
THE CITY OF ANSON

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, 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, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 11,000 cases of COVID-19 and over 400 deaths from COVID-19 have been reported in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot announced COVID-19 as a public disaster and declared a statewide emergency in the State of Texas; 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, large gatherings of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk for the spread of infectious disease; and

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

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, Section 418.108 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Anson, as presiding officer, to declare a local state of disaster, and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.004(1) of the Texas Government Code defines disaster to be the "occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency;" and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk and promote the health and safety of individuals in THE CITY OF ANSON, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Anson has determined, from statements and information provided by the Office of the Texas Governor, the Jones County Emergency Management, Texas Department of State Health Services, and other health agencies serving the State of Texas that extraordinary measures must be taken in order to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 in THE CITY OF ANSON, Texas; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED and ORDERED pursuant to the authority granted in the Texas Disaster Act of Texas Government Code Chapter 418, as follows:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for THE CITY OF ANSON, Texas pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code;
2. By this declaration, THE CITY OF ANSON's Emergency Management Plan is activated and all other statutory powers vested in me and all officers of THE CITY OF ANSON to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration shall also activate all recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans;
3. By this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat be suspended for the duration of this declaration and any extension thereof;
4. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor of the CITY OF ANSON under the Texas Disaster Act of Texas Government Code Chapter 418, I shall exercise any and all necessary powers set out thereunder and I hereby authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in THE CITY OF ANSON's response to this disaster;
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, THE CITY OF ANSON may take all legal actions necessary to protect the health of persons in THE CITY

OF ANSON, Texas;

6. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of local disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this Declaration and Order unless continued or renewed by the City Council of THE CITY OF ANSON, Texas;
7. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration and Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the CITY OF ANSON City Secretary.
8. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, every person in the City of Anson shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
9. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms; provided however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this Order.
10. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
11. In addition to these guidelines, Citizens are strongly encouraged to exercise social distancing of at least 6 feet, regularly wash hands in soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and to not come to the Anson City Hall.
12. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, the CDC, and Governor Abbott, schools shall temporarily close.
13. A violation of this Declaration and Order is punishable as authorized by Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater;
14. In the event the conditions improve between date of adoption and the end of the effective date of this Declaration and Order, the Mayor of the City of Anson shall reevaluate this Declaration and Order at that time.
15. In the event the conditions improve between date of adoption and the end of the effective date of this Declaration and Order, the Mayor shall reevaluate this Declaration and Order at that time.

This Declaration and Order is adopted on this 23 day of March, 2020 at 5:45 p.m., effective immediately.



MAYOR - THE CITY OF ANSON