

DENTON COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT

03/17/2020

Month Day Year
20 02 01

Court Order Number

16. C.

THE ORDER:

Discussion of Executive Order and Disaster Declaration and any appropriate action. County Judge

Motion by Edmondson

Seconded by Marchant

County Judge
Andy Eads

Yes
Abstain ___
No ___
Absent ___

Commissioner Pct No 1
Hugh Coleman
Yes
Abstain ___
No ___
Absent ___

Commissioner Pct No 2
Ron Marchant
Yes
Abstain ___
No ___
Absent ___

Commissioner Pct No 3
Bobbie J. Mitchell
Yes
Abstain ___
No ___
Absent ___

Commissioner Pct No 4
Dianne Edmondson
Yes
Abstain ___
No ___
Absent ___

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Other Action: Pulled from Consent ___ No Action ___ Postponed ___

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT:

Andy Eads
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Juli Luke, County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Commissioners Court of
Denton County, Texas

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John T. Edlett
Assistant District Attorney



BY: Juli Luke
Deputy County Clerk

Hugh Coleman
Precinct 1



Bobbie J. Mitchell
Precinct 3

Ron Marchant
Precinct 2

Dianne Edmondson
Precinct 4

Denton County Commissioners Court
Judge Andy Eads

DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, 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, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, the 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, Denton County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Denton County Department of Emergency Services and the Denton County Department of Public Health has established emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and emergency response plans for this type of health emergency; and

WHEREAS, this International Health Emergency has created a serious health emergency requiring the issuance of a Disaster Declaration and the implementation of the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan, the Denton County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, and associated Emergency Policies; 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 Texas Government Code Chapter 418; and

NOW, THEREFORE, this Disaster Declaration and the following Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon issuance of this order:

1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Denton County, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. The state of disaster shall continue until cancelled by the Denton County Commissioners Court or the Denton County Judge, pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code.
3. This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code.
4. This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code.
5. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
6. Recommendations to reduce the spread of infections, such as Coronavirus (COVID-19), include:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your mouth and nose to reduce the spread of germs.
 - Wash hands thoroughly and often.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
7. Recommend the postponement or cancellation of all gatherings over 50 people.
 8. Recommend that high risk individuals as defined by the CDC not attend gatherings greater than 10 people.
 9. In an effort to reduce exposure, the County Judge may limit or close county facilities to the public, as a method of limiting the spread of COVID-19.
 10. Denton County is requesting businesses and organizations to follow best practices for social distancing to include as attached.

The purpose of this order is for emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and response plans to this public health emergency;

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 17th day of March 2020, upon motion made by:

Comm. Edmondson and seconded by Comm. Marchant, and


5 members of the court being present and voting.



 ANDY EADS, COUNTY JUDGE



 HUGH COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER
 PRECINCT 1



 RON MARCHANT, COMMISSIONER
 PRECINCT 2



 BOBBIE J. MITCHELL, COMMISSIONER
 PRECINCT 3



 DIANNE EDMONDSON, COMMISSIONER
 PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

JULI LUKE, County Clerk and Ex-Officio
 Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Denton County

BY: Juli Luke





Denton County

Social Distancing Recommendations

1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
 - 60 years old and older.
 - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within six feet of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

3) Cancel Non-essential Events

- Cancel non-essential events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
 - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
 - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and handrails.
 - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.

4) Schools: Safety First

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

5) Transit: Cleaning and Protection

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable

- Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

7) Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all Denton County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks currently to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a childcare plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.