



**Wise County Disaster Declaration and Executive Order  
Wise County Commissioners Court**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Wise County Office of Emergency Management and the Wise County Emergency Medical Services 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 Wise County Emergency Operations Plan, the Wise County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, and associated Emergency Policies; and

**WHEREAS**, President Donald J. Trump has established federal phased guidelines for citizens, communities, and business to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott has issued numerous executive orders designed to create social distancing and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Wise County has been under a local disaster declaration since March 23, 2020 due to the spread of COVID-19 and subsequently its negative impact on the community and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a 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 Commissioners Court Order No. 100; and

**WHEREAS**, Wise County has, at the time of this declaration, 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three active cases of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Wise County wishes to further limit the potential spread of COVID-19 in our communities while also supporting the health and success of our local economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, this Disaster Declaration shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on April 27, 2020, and remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2020, unless the Wise County Commissioners Court rescinds or amends the Declaration before that date.

1. A Declaration of local state of disaster activates the Wise County Emergency Operations Plan.
2. The executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott provide the prevailing guidelines for communities and businesses to conduct business, social gatherings, etc., with safety protocols.
3. The Wise County Commissioners Court encourages citizens, employers, and business owners in Wise County to review “The Governor’s Report to Open Texas” ([www.gov.texas.gov/opentexas](http://www.gov.texas.gov/opentexas)) and find ways to implement those guidelines in our community and businesses.
4. The Wise County Commissioners Court will continue to advocate to state and federal officials about common sense guidelines and policies to allow business in communities while simultaneously protecting the health and safety of our citizens.
5. Vulnerable populations, including those ages 65 and older and those with existing health conditions, should take extra precautions to limit potential spread to COVID-19.
6. If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function until cleared by a medical professional.
7. Persons who are sick and currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, even if they have not been tested have a responsibility to take actions necessary to protect the physical health and well-being of others.

Any person who is sick or currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, is hereby ordered to stay home until such time that:

- a) He or she has had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; and
- b) His or her other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath has improved); and
- c) At least 14 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care.

- 8. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173 and Commissioners Court Order No. 100, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00.
- 9. This Declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.
- 10. This Declaration incorporates the attached document concerning “Essential Services” from CISA and the Texas Department of Emergency Management for further clarification and guidance.
- 11. This Declaration shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

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

**Adopted the 27th day of April, 2020.**

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**J. D. Clark, County Judge**

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**Sherry Lemon, County Clerk**