

DECLARATION OF DISASTER

(COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization and is a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, as of March 18, 2020, there are 186 confirmed cases of COVID-19 located in multiple Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, there are three confirmed cases in Lubbock County; and

WHEREAS, certain schools, universities, and other governmental entities are beginning to alter their schedules, and some venues are beginning to temporarily close, as precautionary responses to the increasing presence of COVID-19 in Texas; and

WHEREAS, costs incurred to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are expected to mount at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the City of Idalou has already taken numerous steps to prepare for COVID-19, such as coordinating preparedness efforts across state and local agencies, and working with local partners to promote appropriate mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for the City of Idalou to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Idalou and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, the Governor declared a state of disaster for the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, considering recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control regarding social distancing protocols, it is necessary to issue guidance regarding public and private gatherings in order to mitigate the spread of the disease and preserve and protect public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IDALOU, TEXAS that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster to the City of Idalou, and therefore:

1. Pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Government Code, a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Idalou, Texas; and
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of Idalou; and
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary; and
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the emergency management plan for the City of Idalou; and
5. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor and outdoor

public and private gatherings of 10 persons or more, anywhere in the City of Idalou, beginning at **5:00 P.M. on March 24, 2020**; and

6. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that citizens adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and
7. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should follow the Social Distancing Protocols; and
8. Definitions and further guidance:
 - a. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications set forth below, that brings together, or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, and without limitation, any auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
 - b. A "Mass Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present, and they are typically within arm's length of one another for extended periods.
 - c. A "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:
 - i. public or private schools;
 - ii. licensed day care facilities;
 - iii. places of worship;
 - iv. weddings and funerals;
 - v. office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
 - vi. grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but where it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
 - vii. hospitals, medical facilities, and shelters; and
 - viii. jails and detention centers.
 - d. In all such settings, it is recommended that the public voluntarily follow Social Distancing Protocols and harm reduction measures such as providing hand sanitizer and tissues, when possible. However, any large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space holds 10 or more people.
 - e. "High-Risk Populations" include people who are:
 - i. 60 years old and older;
 - ii. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
 - iii. People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks; and
 - iv. People experiencing homelessness.

9. The Mayor may update the mass gathering restrictions set out in this Declaration as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the Disaster Declaration issued on this date and any extension of the Declaration by the City Council of the City of Idalou; and
10. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance; and

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED this the 23rd day of March, 2020 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.