

Commissioner, Precinct 1
Shelby Dupnik

Commissioner, Precinct 2
Benny Lyssy



Sean O'Brien
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Wade J. Hedtke
Karnes County Judge

Sharon Chesser
Commissioner, Precinct 4

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, I, Wade J. Hedtke, Karnes County Judge, am issuing this declaration of public health emergency pursuant to the authority granted to me under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Texas Government Code, Chapter 418) to declare a public health emergency and order the implementation of certain directives as further set out herein; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, officials from a surrounding County (DeWitt County) confirmed the first case of travel-related COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 the governor of the State of Texas issued an executive order relating to the COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for the County and may exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Karnes County will continue to work collaboratively with the Cities of Karnes County, Karnes County employees, as well as the local health authority, to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken to limit the spread of COVID 19 within Karnes County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist the County's response to this situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COUNTY OF KARNES:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared throughout Karnes County pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b), of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Karnes County Commissioners Court.

3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates Karnes County's emergency management plan as well as all appropriate recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the emergency management plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as necessary or appropriate.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this declaration authorizes Karnes County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease throughout Karnes County, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress throughout Karnes County and any impacted areas.
6. Pursuant to the statutory authority vested in me as the presiding officer of the County of Karnes, I issue guidance as set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings and Related Matters, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1", Exhibit "2" and Attachment "1".
7. As the County Judge and presiding officer of the County of Karnes, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to the situation which is the subject of this Declaration.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 23th day of March, 2020.



Wade J. Hedtke
Karnes County Judge