



ELOY VERA
Starr County Judge

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**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR
STARR COUNTY, TEXAS
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, now designated as COVID-19, a contagious respiratory virus has spread globally; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Texas Governor Greg Abbot declared a state of disaster for the State of Texas on the 13th day of March, 2020, to protect the health and welfare of Texans in relations to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has the potential of endangering lives and damaging property on a large scale that could escalate and cause an imminent threat; and

WHEREAS, I Eloy Vera, County of Judge of Starr County, together with the Commissioners Court has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people that could be exposed or infected with the virus, as well as those that could be potentially impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after the issuance, unless the commissioners court consents to its renewal or continuance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY ELOY VERA, COUNTY OF JUDGE OF STARR COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, a state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for STARR COUNTY;

- SECTION 2.** Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Starr County;
- SECTION 3.** Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with Humberto Gonzalez, Jr., as the County Clerk of STARR COUNTY;
- SECTION 4.** Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state disaster for public health emergency activities the Starr County Emergency Management Plan, in addition to implementation of the Starr County Continuity of Operation Plan, and
- SECTION 5.** This declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
- SECTION 6.** Food establishments are **ORDERED** to close common dining areas open to the public until April 2, 2020 and encouraged to provide take-away or non-contact delivery food services designed to limit exposure between individuals.
- SECTION 7.** The holder of wine and beer retailer's permit or mixed beverage permit (collectively "bar") is **ORDERED** to close common bar space open to the public and is **PROHIBITED** from allowing consumption on the bar premises until April 2, 2020.
- SECTION 8.** Starr County therefore adopts Exhibit "A" regarding public and private gatherings.
- SECTION 9.** **IT IS ORDERED** that peace officers, code enforcement inspectors, and County Fire Departments are hereby authorized to enforce this order. **BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that a violation of this Disaster Declaration is Punishable as a Class C Misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the country's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

ORDERED this the 19th day of March, 2020, in the COUNTY OF STARR, TEXAS, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the COUNTY OF STARR.



Eloy Vera
Starr County Judge

Filed with me, the County Clerk of Starr County, this the 19th day of March, 2020, by Judge Eloy Vera, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand the seal of Starr County.



Humberto "Bert" Gonzalez, Jr.
Starr County Clerk