



## **DECLARATION OF DISASTER 2020-D-3**

### **ORDER OF CITY OF COLUMBUS MAYOR LORI AN GOBERT**

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, City of Columbus, Mayor Lori An Gobert, signed a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency for the City of Columbus, Texas related to COVID-19 pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Commissioner of State Health Services declared a Public Health Disaster for the entire State of Texas on Thursday, March 19, 2020 and outlines certain control measures and mitigation strategies;

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA 14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout City of Columbus;

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN MY BY § 418.108 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 14, BE IT ORDERED BY LORI AN GOBERT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Columbus, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code:



- In accordance with guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in the City of Columbus shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- “Essential services” shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in Governor Abbott’s Executive Order No. GA-14 and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).
- In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this declaration.
- This declaration does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in



physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities, unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, and Texas Government Code section 418.108(g), schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

2. Pursuant to Government Code § 418.173, violation of this Order is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

ORDERED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lori An Gobert'.

Lori An Gobert  
City of Columbus Mayor

