



**CITY OF EAGLE PASS, TEXAS
MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

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, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, 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, 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, the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said 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 Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EAGLE PASS, TEXAS:

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

SECTION 2. That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the 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 City Council of the City of Eagle Pass, Texas.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, Emergency Management Plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 6. That all city departments and staff will continue operating during normal business hours, with the following restrictions:

- a) The City of Eagle Pass Municipal Court will postpone Court sessions for Thursday, March 19, 2020, Friday, March 20, 2020, Monday, March 23, 2020 and Friday March 27, 2020.
- b) The City of Eagle Pass Parks and Recreations Department will postpone leagues, events, and activities indefinitely. Fields and courts will not be allowed to be used or rented until further notice.
- c) The Eagle Pass Public Library and all library facilities are closed until March 27, at which time the closures will be reassessed.
- d) All City Board and Commission meetings, with the exception of the Eagle Pass City Council, Planning and Zoning, and any other meeting required by law, will be postponed until their regularly scheduled May meeting.

SECTION 7. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. For purposes of this declaration, a "gathering" refers generally to any event or common endeavor that brings together or is likely to bring together 10 persons or more at the same time in a confined or enclosed space, room, or area such as, by way of example and without limitation, and auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

SECTION 8. For purposes of clarity, a "gathering" does not include the following: (i) public or private schools and places of worship; (ii) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters; (iii) grocery stores, restaurants, and other public food service locations, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be arm's length of one another for extended periods; and (iv) jails and detention centers. In all such settings, where possible, it is recommended the public follow social distancing recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this Section is subject to the prohibition of gatherings as outlined in Section 7. In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow social distancing recommendations and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible

SECTION 9. That this declaration strongly encourages and recommends that social distancing protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf> be followed, including cancelling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 10 people.

SECTION 10. That this declaration strongly encourages citizens to use drive through and pick up facilities at local restaurants and eateries in order to maintain the social distancing protocols currently established by the CDC and by order of the President of the United States.

SECTION 11. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SECTION 12. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 13. That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 18th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis E. Sifuentes', written over a horizontal line.

Luis E. Sifuentes, Mayor
City of Eagle Pass , Texas