



# **DENTON COUNTY**

**Executive Order AE-20-03  
March 13, 2020**

**DISASTER DECLARATION  
AND  
EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE DENTON COUNTY JUDGE  
Andy Eads**

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

**WHEREAS**, the 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**, Denton County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Denton County Department of Emergency Services and the Denton County Department of Public Health has established emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and emergency response plans for this type of health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, this International Health Emergency has created a serious health emergency requiring the issuance of a Disaster Declaration and the implementation of the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan, the Denton County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, and associated Emergency Policies; 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 Texas Government Code Chapter 418; and

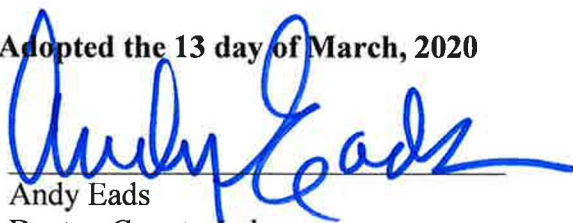
**NOW, THEREFORE,** this Disaster Declaration and the following Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon issuance of this order:


1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Denton County, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. 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 Denton County Commissioners Court, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
3. This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
4. This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan, pursuant to §418.018(b) of the Government Code.
5. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
6. Recommendations to reduce the spread of infections, such as Coronavirus (COVID-19), include:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your mouth and nose to reduce the spread of germs.
  - Wash hands thoroughly and often.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
7. Recommend the postponement or cancellation of all large gatherings over 250 people.

In accordance with Texas Government Code 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this order commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

**The purpose of this order is for emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and response plans to this public health emergency;**

Adopted the 13 day of March, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Eads  
Denton County Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juli Luke  
County Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date