



OFFICE OF THE  
**COUNTY JUDGE**  
DALLAM COUNTY, TEXAS

WES RITCHEY  
Dallam County Judge  
414 Denver Ave., Suite 301  
Dalhart, Texas 79022

Phone: (806) 244-2450  
Fax: (806) 244-2252  
daljudge@xit.net

**COUNTY OF DALLAM STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, 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**, Dallam County, 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 COUNTY JUDGE OF DALLAM COUNTY, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for DALLAM COUNTY, 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 thirty (30) days from the date of this declaration as approved by the Commissioners Court of Dallam County, 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 County Clerk.

**SECTION 4.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Dallam County, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.



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**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the County 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 County, 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 County's rules and directives.

**SECTION 6.** Pursuant to the Orders of Governor Greg Abbott of March 19, 2020 it is hereby ordered:

- A. In accordance with the guidance from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- B. In accordance with guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided however that the use of drive thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this order.
- C. In accordance with guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide for critical assistance.
- D. In accordance with guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

**SECTION 7.** 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 8.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 9.** That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the Commissioners Court, shall continue in effect for thirty (30) or until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge at any time as deemed necessary.



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DECLARED this 24th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Ritchey".

Wes Ritchey, Dallam County Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl McCarty".

Carl McCarty, Commissioner Pct 1

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Cory Crabtree, Commissioner Pct 2

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Levi James, Commissioner Pct 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Floyd French".

Floyd French, Commissioner Pct 4

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Terri Banks, Dallam County Clerk