



**CITY OF ROBSTOWN
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER AND
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 cause a severe illness, including coughing, fever, shortness of breath 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 31, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 still poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas and setting restriction on social gatherings, restaurants, bars and other establishments as well as except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, residents must minimize in-person contact with people not in the same household; and,

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order GA-18 which allows for individuals to seek essential services and allowed for reopened services to begin on May 1, 2020, which included retail stores, restaurants, movie theatres, museums and libraries to open up for services but are limited to occupancy of 25% or below and must adhere to social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order GA-23 to expand openings of business and activities to move forward with the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas safely and strategically; and,

WHEREAS, there currently exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Governor Greg Abbott on June 3, 2020 through Executive Order GA-26 and where Governor Abbott has made clear that local jurisdictions, in consultation with local public health authority may impose additional restrictions not inconsistent with the Governor's Executive Order; and,

WHEREAS, the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the City of Robstown community despite efforts by local authorities to control the spread; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe that the Declaration needs to be reinstated to reflect the newest restrictions and it is the intent of this Declaration to remain as consistent with and to harmonize, to the extent possible, the Executive Order GA-26 of Governor Abbott and the

County Judge of Nueces County Order issued on June 22, 2020; 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 AND CONFIRMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROBSTOWN, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Robstown, 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 become **effective at 11:59 PM on June 30, 2020** and be effective for thirty days unless extended or modified by City Council.

SECTION 3. That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Robstown, Texas, emergency management plan.

SECTION 4. That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporary acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for emergency shelters, subject to compensation requirements.

SECTION 5. This Declaration shall incorporate and adopt the most recent executive order GA-26 issued by Governor Abbott on June 3, 2020, and any subsequent orders by the Governor relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to COVID-019 disaster.

SECTION 6. Health and Safety Policy – Commercial Entities. From the date of this Executive Order, all commercial entities in the City of Robstown providing goods or services directly to the public must develop and implement a health and safety policy (“Health and Safety Policy”). The Health and Safety Policy **must require, at a minimum, that all employees or visitors to the commercial entity’s business premises or other facilities wear face coverings over their nose and mouth when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public** where six feet of separation is not feasible. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Executive Order may also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks or health screenings.

SECTION 7. Face Coverings-General Public. CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Therefore, **all people 10 years or older shall wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place** where it is difficult to keep six feet away from other people such as visiting a grocery store/pharmacy or working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers. Face coverings are also required at all government owned facilities within the city limits of Robstown, including but not limited to Robstown City Hall, Robstown Independent

School District administrative offices. This face covering requirement also includes and is not limited to retail stores, restaurants, bars, business offices, salons and gyms. Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their home. City of Robstown employees are also required to wear face coverings under the same circumstances as the general public. This declaration also confirms that businesses and property owners can require the wearing of face coverings onto their business and/or property. Such cloth face masks can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost.

Face coverings do not need to be worn in the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks
- When consuming food or drink

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask. Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- Washing hands before you leave home and when you return,
- Staying at least six feet away from others,
- Avoiding touching nose or face,
- Not using disposable masks more than three times, and
- Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

Consistent with Executive Order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, **no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.**

SECTION 8. In accordance with the Guidelines from the Governor of Texas and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

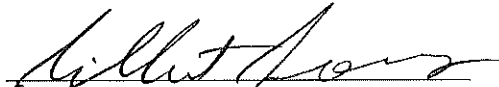
SECTION 9. Excepting Section 7 of this Declaration, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00.

SECTION 10. To the greatest extent possible, this Declaration shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Declaration, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of

any further orders.

SECTION 11. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Declaration are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Declaration should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Declaration are severable.

DECLARED this 29th day of June 2020.



Gilbert Gomez
Mayor, City of ROBSTOWN

Attest:



Gavriela Garcia
Assistant City Secretary

City Seal:

Notary Seal:

