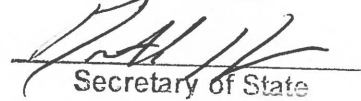




April 17, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30pm O'CLOCK

APR 17 2020


Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughes
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

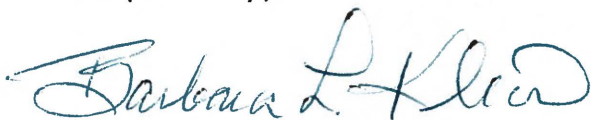
Dear Secretary Hughes:

Pursuant to his authority as the Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. John Hellerstedt has issued the following:

A declaration renewing the Public Health Disaster Declaration of March 19, 2020, stating that the novel coronavirus (SAR-CoV-2, that causes the disease COVID-19) presents an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

The original declaration is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully,



Barbara L. Klein, J.D., EMPL
General Counsel

Attachment



Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D.

DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

April 17, 2020

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (SAR-CoV-2, which causes the disease known as COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas renewed the disaster proclamation under his authority under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code;

WHEREAS, I, John W. Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, issued a public health disaster declaration on March 19, 2020, certifying that the introduction and spread of the communicable disease known as COVID-19 in the State of Texas has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas; and

WHEREAS I have determined that COVID-19 continues to present an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 81.082(d) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, I do hereby renew the public health disaster declaration for the entire State of Texas.

Pursuant to Section 81.002 of the code, each person shall act responsibly to prevent and control communicable disease. The following actions, taken immediately, will reduce and delay the spread of COVID-19:

- People, businesses and communities should immediately undertake hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation practices that are accessible, affordable and known to be effective against COVID-19.
 - Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
 - If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- People who are known to have, or are under investigation or monitoring, for COVID-19, should adhere to the direction provided to them by duly authorized persons, including public health officials. Failure to abide by such direction may result in involuntary quarantine or isolation for the purposes of preventing further community spread of COVID-19.
- People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID-19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover. Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if their symptoms are such that they cannot continue to be cared for in their home. And, when seeking medical care should call their doctor or health care facility before arriving to allow them to prepare.
- Limit as much as possible close contact with other people. Stay six feet away.
- Do not gather in social groups of more than ten (10) individuals.
- Employers should allow work at home alternatives to the greatest extent possible.
- Restaurants should not allow dine-in options, either inside or outside. Take-out and curbside options with minimal contact are permitted and highly encouraged.

The Texas Department of State Health Services will continue to provide the most current and practical advice on how to control the spread of COVID-19 and encourages all Texans to seek additional information from a trusted source such as <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/> or from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>.

Adherence to these rules and the sound public health principles that support them will provide optimal protection for the people of Texas. These measures are necessary to advance the health and safety of all Texans.

Copies of this proclamation will be filed with applicable authorities.



Given under my hand this the

17 day of April, 2020.

JOHN W. HELLERSTEDT, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health

ATTESTED BY:

Ruth Hughs
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3:30 PM O'CLOCK

APR 17 2020



Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D.

DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

March 19, 2020

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, John W. Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, do hereby certify that the introduction and spread of the communicable disease known as COVID-19 in the State of Texas has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease's method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 81.082(d) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, I do hereby declare a state of public health disaster for the entire State of Texas.

Pursuant to Section 81.002 of the code, each person shall act responsibly to prevent and control communicable disease. The following actions, taken immediately, will reduce and delay the spread of COVID-19:

- People, businesses and communities should immediately undertake hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation practices that are accessible, affordable and known to be effective against COVID-19.
 - Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
 - If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- People who are known to have, or are under investigation or monitoring, for COVID-19, should adhere to the direction provided to them by duly authorized persons, including public health officials. Failure to abide by such direction may result in involuntary quarantine or isolation for the purposes of preventing further community spread of COVID-19.

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SECRETARY OF STATE
11:45 AM O'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020

- People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID-19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover. Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if their symptoms are such that they cannot continue to be cared for in their home. And, when seeking medical care should call their doctor or health care facility before arriving to allow them to prepare.
- Limit trips into the public to essential outings. Traveling to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy or to seek medical care would be considered essential trips.
- Limit as much as possible close contact with other people. Stay six feet away.
- Do not gather in social groups of more than ten (10) individuals.
- Employers should allow work at home alternatives to the greatest extent possible.
- Restaurants should not allow dine-in options, either inside or outside. Take-out and curbside options with minimal contact are permitted and highly encouraged.


The Texas Department of State Health Services will continue to provide the most current and practical advice on how to control the spread of COVID-19 and encourages all Texans to seek additional information from a trusted source such as <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/> or from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>.

Adherence to these rules and the sound public health principles that support them will provide optimal protection for the people of Texas. These measures are necessary to advance the health and safety of all Texans.

Copies of this proclamation will be filed with applicable authorities.

Given under my hand this the

19 day of March, 2020.



JOHN W. HELLERSTEDT, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health

ATTESTED BY:



Ruth Hughs
Secretary of State

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