

**THE CITY OF HITCHCOCK, TEXAS  
SECOND DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
DUE TO COVID- 19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel respiratory disease named “SARS-CoV-2” that causes a disease named “coronavirus disease 2019” (“COVID-19”) was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath that may result in mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and advised countries to prepare for the containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States could potentially signal that transmission of the virus may no longer be limited to travel to outbreak areas or contact with travelers who have visited outbreak areas; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), it is likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC warns that widespread transmission of COVID-19 would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC also warns that schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism; public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths; other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation industry may also be affected; and health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas, issued a proclamation that declared COVID-19 as an imminent threat of disaster, and

**WHEREAS**, given, among other things, including the CDC’s guidance, there is an ongoing risk and likelihood of COVID-19-positive patients being identified in the City of Hitchcock; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the CDC issued revised guidelines that persons should avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people, and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas, issued an Executive Order, GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation, and

**WHEREAS**, the City, local health agencies, and political subdivisions within the region have been working diligently to implement CDC guidelines, but now require additional tools and resources to protect the public health given the current state of the epidemic and the need for a sustained response; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as amended, Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, (the "Texas Disaster Act"), the Mayor is designated as the Emergency Management Director of the City of Hitchcock, and may exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster due to this public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the Governor of state resources; and

**WHEREAS**, by this Declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Randy Strickland, the Mayor of the City of Hitchcock have determined that emergency measures must be taken to either prepare for or respond to a disaster due to this public health emergency in order to respond quickly, to prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19, and to prevent or minimize the loss of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HITCHCOCK, TEXAS:**

**Section 1. Declaration of Local State of Disaster.** That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Hitchcock pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Disaster Act.

**Section 2. Duration of Local State of Disaster.** Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Disaster Act, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than **seven days** from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.

**Section 3. Publicity and Filing.** Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Clerk.

**Section 4. Activation of the City Emergency Management Plan.** Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this public health emergency activates the City of Hitchcock Emergency Management Plan.

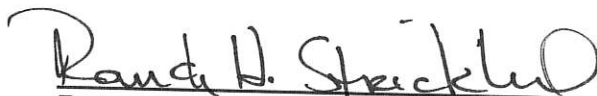
**Section 5. Temporary Housing and Emergency Shelter.** Pursuant to §418.020(d) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration authorizes the City to: (1) temporarily or permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for disaster victims; and (2) enter into arrangements necessary to prepare or equip the sites for installation and use of temporary housing units or emergency shelters, including arrangements necessary for the transportation and purchase of temporary housing units or emergency shelters.

**Section 6.** Pursuant to §122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, the City is authorized take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals. The City of Hitchcock hereby declares that those persons under investigation, persons under management, and quarantined persons remain within the confines of their homes or in safe, secure facilities during the quarantine period following their exposure to the virus.

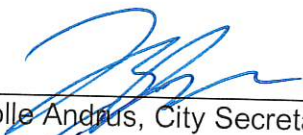
**Section 7.** Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I, Randy Strickland, as Mayor of the City of Hitchcock, in coordination and consultation with the local health authority issue further guidance and restrictions set out in Exhibit 1 as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of this Declaration.

**Section 8.** This proclamation shall take effect immediately upon its issuance.

**ORDERED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Randy Strickland Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Nicholle Andrus, City Secretary

## Exhibit 1

### THE CITY OF HITCHCOCK, TEXAS EMERGENCY MEASURES

1. The virus that causes COVID - 19 is easily transmitted; especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.
2. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of 10 people or more anywhere in the **City of Hitchcock beginning at 11:59 PM on March 20, 2020 and continuing for seven (7) days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.**
3. Based on revised guidance by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on March 16, 2020, the public is strongly urged to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people.
4. It is strongly recommended that every person and business exercise the social distancing protocols established by the CDC and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>)
5. Organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should also follow CDC guidance for social distancing.
6. Additional restrictions regarding the following businesses will also go into effect upon issuance of this Declaration:
  - a. A food establishment, as defined below, may only provide take out, delivery, drive in, room service, or drive-through services consistent with state and local laws. Any food establishment that provides services under this section must adhere to social distancing requirements for any waiting area or queue.
  - b. Game Rooms, bars, lounges, nightclubs, taverns, private clubs, gyms or health studios, indoor commercial amusement and entertainment businesses, bowling alleys, bingo parlors, and theaters shall close.
7. Definitions and further guidance:
  - a. For purposes of this Clarification, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely

to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

b. A "Mall Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that:

(i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure; and

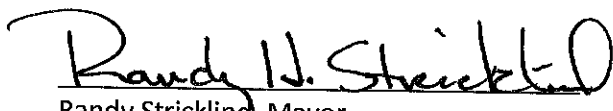
(ii) where people are present, and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c, compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.

d. "High Risk Populations" include people who are:

- 60 years old or older.
- People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems'
- People experiencing homelessness

8. The Local Health Authority and Director of Health may update restrictions set out in this Declaration as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the Mayor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency and any extension by the Hitchcock City Council.

  
Randy Strickling, Mayor