

CITY OF RISING STAR

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Rising Star, TX 76471
254-643-4261 Phone 254-643-1212 Fax

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and 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, on March 13, 2020, the governor 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 of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of the City of Rising Star; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease, this Declaration activates the City's Emergency Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rising Star has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency;

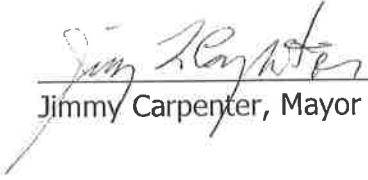
THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Rising Star that:

1. A local state of disaster is hereby proclaimed for the City of Rising Star, pursuant to 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. This Declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity, shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary, and activates the City of Rising Star's Emergency Management Plan, pursuant to 418.018(b) of the Texas Government Code.
3. Pursuant to the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 122.006, any individual adult or child having traveled and visited any level 3 country as established by

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or traveled via a cruise ship, within the ten (10) days prior to this declaration and returning to Rising Star, Texas, must be quarantined at home for 14 days.

4. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 24th day of March, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.



Jimmy Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jan Clark, City Administrator

CITY OF RISING STAR

P.O. Box 35

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Jim Carpenter – Mayor
Jan Clark – City Administrator
Brandi Morris – City Clerk
Johnny Hubbard – Councilmember
John Mashburn – Councilmember
Betsy Herron – Councilmember
Tricia Nalll -Councilmember
Ben Childers – Councilmember

March 24, 2020

RE: COVID-19

The City of Rising Star has Declared a Local Disaster Due to a Public Health Emergency and is closely monitoring the national outbreak of the novel coronavirus, now known as COVID-19. The City is working with our public health partners at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure the city has best practices in place for the general public.

Beginning immediately and until April 13, 2020 the following will apply:

1. Public Events – The City of Rising Star recommends to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
2. Essential City Services and Staff – As we are a small city with a limited number of employees, all employees are considered essential and all services will continue. This will be evaluated daily.
3. Public Restroom Facilities – The City Park restrooms shall remain closed to the public.
4. Rising Star Municipal Court – The Rising Star Municipal Court will not be accepting payments except via telephone or US Mail.
5. Rising Star Police – The Rising Star Police will be closed to the public for routine visits, walk-ins, or casual complaints. Emergency situations will be handled with the necessary contact from Police personnel to deal with the situation, and keep the public safe.
6. Rising Star Volunteer Fire Department – The Fire Department will be closed to the public. Emergency situations will be handled with the necessary contact from

Police and Fire personnel to deal with the situation, and keep the public and first responders safe.

7. Rising Star City Hall – The Rising Star City Hall will be closed for normal business. Utility payments can be made by using the US mail or calling City Hall and use credit card payment. City Hall will continue to be available by telephone and email. No one, other than City of Rising Star personnel, will be allowed access to any part of the City Hall.
8. Sickness – Any sign of sickness of an employee should be dealt with by seeking medical attention. During this time, it is highly advised that if an employee even has a common cold, that they seek medical attention and do not report to work. Any work absence directly due to COVID-19 (employee illness or caregiver of family member with illness) must have a doctor's note and sick leave will be used and not charged to your time.
9. Operational Precautions – Employees responsible for handling money or other items that may be passed to them by the public will:
 - a. Wash their hands frequently and use hand sanitizer regularly.
 - b. Not touch their face and mouth.
 - c. Wear gloves when handling the aforementioned items.
10. Cleaning and Sanitizing – An inventory of the necessary cleaning and sanitizing supplies should be conducted and maintained throughout this period. Employees are instructed to give extra care and attention to cleaning and sanitizing doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms, and other items and area touched frequently.

Emergency Management, City Administration, and First Responders will participate in daily briefings from public health organizations and various operations on the state and local level related to COVID-19. If changes are necessary to protect the public, those changes will be made and released through various methods of communication to include email and departmental chain of command.

The 24th day of March, 2020.



Jim Carpenter – Mayor

ATTEST:



Jan Clark – City Administrator