



Good Evening,

At 10 pm this evening Dallas County declared a state of emergency in response to 5 additional presumptive positive COVID-19 cases. One of these cases was the result of community spread, meaning this person did not travel to an area known to have the virus or to be in contact with anyone known to have the virus. This confirms what I have been worried about for quite some time - the virus is in our community already and, due to limited available testing, we frankly do not know how many people are impacted. The state of emergency is in effect for one week and may be extended in the future.

I'm including the declaration from the County which places restrictions on public events larger than 500 people. I want to reiterate that those of you who are considered high risk for this virus should take every precaution and limit your exposure as much as possible.

While not part of the declaration, if you are a business owner and have staff who can work remotely, I encourage you to do so. We all must do our part to prevent the spread of this virus to ensure our hospitals can treat those most in need and provide proper care.

I am pressing to get better information on how many tests have been conducted, how many will be available in the future, and guidelines for testing. As we learn more, my office will update you.



### DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning in December, 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

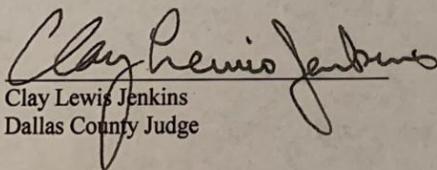
WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. In some cases the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Dallas County, including the banning of community gatherings of over 500 people and, additionally, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional measures that prevent or control the spread of disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Dallas County, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to section 418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster for 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 Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the 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.
4. Pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Dallas County emergency management plan.
5. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins  
Dallas County Judge

Dallas County Health & Human Services (DCHHS) will continue to provide updates to the community about COVID-19. Attached is a Frequently Asked Question handout with additional information on best practices. You can also call DCHHS at 972-692-2780 between the hours of 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday - Friday.

[COVID -19 FAQs \(English\)](#)

[COVID - 19 FAQs \(Spanish\)](#)

For detailed information regarding the coronavirus, please visit the [CDC website](#).

Dallas County Health and Human Services is the centralized resource for health

safety in Dallas County. Please visit their [website](#) for more information. The City of Dallas has additional information on their [website](#).

John Hopkins University created this interactive map to track the coronavirus world-wide. Find the [desktop version here](#) and the [mobile version here](#).

While the City, County, State and Federal government will be working closely to contain the virus, we have a collective responsibility to maintain healthy habits. If you are sick, please stay home. And, I cannot emphasize this enough, wash your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds frequently throughout the day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my Council Liaison, Sarah Evans, by phone at 214-670-3816 or email at [sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com](mailto:sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com).



**Jennifer S. Gates**

*Councilmember District 13*

**City of Dallas** | [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com)

1500 Marilla St 5FS

Dallas, TX 75201

O: (214) 670-3816