

**LLANO COUNTY PRESS RELEASE**

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

**COVID-19 (New Coronavirus)**



**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

**March 20, 2020**

Llano, TX- As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to pose an increasing and imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas, it is imperative that Llano County work cohesively and effectively with our state and federal partners to contain and mitigate this deadly threat. Our President and our Governor have made declarations and issued preventative measures to help in these efforts.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health and this declaration was ratified in an Emergency Called Commissioners Court on March 19, 2020. On this same date, Governor Abbot issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. This executive order called for specific actions which are intended to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and the imminent threat of widespread illness and death.

Emergency Disaster Declarations for Public Health Matters also grant broad powers to the County Judge to issue further orders or restrictions, such as to limit movement and travel within the affected area, limit the occupancy of an affected area, or prevent the gathering of large numbers of individuals in a certain area, if required.

Today at 3:00 PM County Judge Ron Cunningham issued an order to abide by the Governor Abbott's Executive Order and to impose penalties for failure to comply with these state orders. "The County seeks to address this global health pandemic in a cautious, but responsible manner, utilizing all available resources to educate and prepare the public," Judge Cunningham said. "We realize that every government restriction put in place can feel like an impediment to the freedom of our citizens, their businesses, and their lives. It is important to understand, such actions are being taken in abundance of caution and deemed absolutely necessary for the health and safety of our citizens.

"We urge all residents of Llano County to comply with this order, stay informed of the facts, verify any information and show kindness, respect and understanding toward one another in all interactions," said Judge Cunningham.

Llano County remains in Phase 2-Persons Under Investigation (Testing in Progress) as of time of this release, with no known cases of COVID-19 in our county.

For additional information reference Llano County's preparation and response, please see [www.co.llano.tx.us](http://www.co.llano.tx.us) or contact Emergency Management Coordinator- Gilbert Bennett at 325-247-2039 or email at [gbennett@co.llano.tx.us](mailto:gbennett@co.llano.tx.us).

DSHS has additional information on the COVID-19 for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at [www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)

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