

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

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**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER AND
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

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WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, with symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath, and patient outcomes ranging from 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 (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak should be characterized as pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as the presiding officer of the City of Castle Hills City Council, the City's governing body, the Mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Castle Hills and may exercise the powers granted of the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and 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, request assistance from the governor of state resources, and access funds available for disaster relief and reimbursement at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Public Health Emergency, all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are declared suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation is authorized; and

WHEREAS, I, JR Trevino, the Mayor of the City of Castle Hills have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF CASTLE HILLS:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Castle Hills pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

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2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue **for seven (7) days unless continued or renewed by the City Council.**
 3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
 4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Castle Hills's emergency management plan.
 5. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I, JR Trevino, as Mayor of the City of Castle Hills, in coordination and consultation with local health authorities, may issue further guidance and restrictions set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings as set out by the Governor of the State Texas and the Center for Disease Control.
 6. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.
 7. 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 Castle Hills' Emergency Management Plan.
 8. Audience and presenter social distancing and public testimony and public hearing input at public meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions. To reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission, public meetings, if held, will be held in a manner intended to separate, to the maximum practical extent, audience and presenters from personal contact with members of the community, City staff, City Council and City Boards and Commissions. Public testimony and public hearing input for public comment and on all items on the agenda at public meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions shall be provided in written format and presented to the City Secretary and/or designee prior to the start of each meeting(s) of the City Council and/or City Boards and/or Commission. This testimony and/or public input shall be in accordance with the City Secretary's instructions, which shall be posted on the City Secretary's door and on the City website and allow for electronic submission. The written public testimony shall be provided to members of City Council or the applicable City board or commission prior to voting on measures for that meeting. That written testimony shall be limited in accordance with the City Secretary requirements and shall be placed into the record of each meeting. This written testimony shall serve as the required public testimony pursuant to Texas Government Code 551 .007 and shall constitute a public hearing for purposes of any public hearing requirement under law.

9. Governor Abbott's Executive Order of March 19, 2020. By Executive Order GA-08 issued March 19, 2020, effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has ordered that (a) people shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than of ten (10) people, (b) that people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors (provided that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and encouraged), and (c) issued other orders, all aimed at protecting public health and containing the spread of COVID-19.

This declaration of a Local State of Disaster and Public Health Emergency in the City of Castle Hills incorporates Governor Abbott's March 19, 2020 Executive Order.

10. Effective Date. This proclamation shall take effect immediately upon its issuance by the Mayor of the City of Castle Hills.

ORDERED THIS THE 19TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



JR Trevino, Mayor
City of Castle Hills

Attest:


Ryan Rapelye, City Manager

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