



**Steve Young**  
*Milam County Judge*

**ORDER DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER FOR MILAM COUNTY**

June 25, 2020

The express purpose and intent of this Milam County disaster order is to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus by requiring the use of face coverings as set forth herein. COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that is spread by humans to other humans. The virus is typically contained in vapor droplets expelled from the nose and mouth. The virus is spread by those who have symptoms and those that do not have symptoms.

There is no known cure for the virus and the only defense is to prevent the spread of the virus. A face covering that adequately covers the nose and mouth is a major inhibitor which helps prevent the spread of the virus.

Milam County has no hospital care, no emergency room care and no urgent care. Its medical clinics are under additional stress to test, treat and care for those who have virus symptoms and/or those that are infected with the virus. In addition, nearby out of County medical providers are under added pressure to test, treat and care for Milam County residents who go out of County for testing, treatment and care.

As of 12:01 a.m. June 25, 2020 Milam County has seventy-eight (78) confirmed cases of infected Milam County residents, with the first case reported on March 20, 2020. Thirty (30) of the cases were confirmed in the last eight (8) days.

Pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, the County Judge has the unilateral authority to implement and enforce a disaster declaration to protect the health and safety of all citizens of Milam County. Therefore, I, Steve Young, declare that a local state of disaster exists in Milam County due to the COVID-19 virus and a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Milam County pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

1. By this declaration, Milam County's Emergency Management Plan is hereby activated, and all other statutory powers vested in me and all officers of Milam County to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration shall also activate all recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local and

interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans;

2. By this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat be suspended for the duration of this declaration and any extension thereof;
3. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Milam County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of the Texas Government Code Chapter 418, I shall exercise any and all necessary powers set out thereunder and I hereby authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivision to assist in Milam County's response to this disaster;
4. Pursuant to the authority granted under the law of the State of Texas, Milam County may take all legal actions necessary to protect the health of persons in Milam County, Texas.
5. Effective at 12:01 a.m. Monday, June 29, 2020 all businesses and commercial entities (businesses) in Milam County providing goods or services directly to the public must develop and implement a health and safety policy which provides the following minimum requirements:
  - a. All businesses and commercial entities shall require all employees, visitors, including but not limited to patrons, contractors, volunteers and vendors, to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while on the business's premises.
  - b. All businesses and commercial entities shall deny entrance onto their premises and/or services to any person who refuses or fails to comply with section 5(a) of this order.
  - c. All businesses shall post the Health and Safety Policy required by this Directive and/or this Emergency Order and/or other information in a conspicuous location to provide notice to employees, volunteers, and visitors of these minimum requirements.
  - d. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Directive may also include other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID19 such as temperature checks and health screening.
  - e. These provisions apply to all offices and departments of Milam County.
6. Not Required: A face covering is not required to be worn in the following circumstances:
  - a. When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;

- b. While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
  - c. When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk;
  - d. When pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
  - e. While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; and
  - f. When consuming food or drink.
7. Face Mask Cleaning:
- a. Disposable face masks shall not be worn over three (3) times.
  - b. Reusable face masks shall be washed regularly.
8. Other Circumstances: It is strongly recommended that all persons over the age of ten (10) years of age wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six (6) feet away from other people or working in close proximity with other co-workers.
- a. It is highly recommended that all citizens always keep at least six (6) feet of distance from others (except those of an immediate household).
  - b. It is highly recommended that a strict personal hygiene regime be adhered to which includes:
    - i. Washing your hands regularly;
    - ii. Not touching your nose and mouth with your hands; and
    - iii. Maintaining a distance of at least six (6) feet from others (except for immediate household).
9. Face Covering Materials: Face covering shall be made of materials sufficient to prevent the spread of vapor droplets from the nose and mouth and may include homemade masks, scarves, bandanas or handkerchiefs, as well as commercial masks.

Severability. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Directive are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Directive should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Directive are severable.

Interpretation and Additional Terms. To the greatest extent possible, this Directive shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Directive,

enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

Enforcement. This disaster order will be enforced by fines in accordance with the executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott and the laws of the State of Texas and the County of Milam, against any entity that refuses or fails to comply. Further, any peace officer or other person with lawful authority is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Directive in accordance with the authority granted under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975.

This Declaration and Order is adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020 at 2:00 p.m. All aspects and requirements set forth herein are effective at 12:01 a.m. June 29, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.



Steve Young  
Milam County Judge