

**FIRST AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
CITY OF BENBROOK**

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 with 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 spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of cases that have spread into the United States, and that the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States signals that transmission of the virus is occurring; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, County Judge B. Glen Whitley issued a Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for Tarrant County for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and further issued a First Amended Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for Tarrant County for COVID-19 on March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott issued a State of Disaster for all Texas counties for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and further issued Executive Order No.GA-08, relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation on March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump declared a State of National Emergency for the United States of America on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Benbrook, and may exercise the powers granted to 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, and compel persons to undergo additional measures that help prevent or control the spread of disease (including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement under public health observation), and including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated, and the authority to request assistance from the governor of state resources; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Local Disaster and Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat to be suspended for the duration of the incident; and

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

WHEREAS, I, Jerry B. Dittrich, the Mayor of the City of Benbrook, 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 who could be infected or impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I, Jerry B. Dittrich, the Mayor of the City of Benbrook, issued an order of March 16, 2020, and do hereby issue this Declaration of Public Health Emergency to implement additional measures to ensure the protection of the general public in the City of Benbrook.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF BENBROOK:

1. That a state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Benbrook, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. That the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date hereof, unless the same is continued by the City Council of the City of Benbrook, Texas, pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.
3. That 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, pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code.
4. That the City's Emergency Operations Plan, through and a part of the Tarrant County's Emergency Operation Plan, is activated and implemented, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code.
5. That this declaration hereby adopts the aforementioned orders and all subsequent Declarations of Disaster, or similar orders as may be applicable, as issued by Tarrant County, the State of Texas and the United States of America.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED this the 19th day of March 2020.



Jerry B. Dittrich, Mayor
City of Benbrook

CITY OF BENBROOK RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR MITIGATING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The City of Benbrook strongly recommends the following:

1. Cancel all nonessential gatherings and meetings of less than 10 people.
2. Create smaller groups for essential meetings, and consider holding video/audio meetings instead.
3. For individuals at increased risk of severe illness, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people, and limit nonessential outings. “Individuals at increased risk of severe illness” includes but is not limited to individuals 60 years and older; with compromised immune systems; with medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or disorders, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other lung conditions.
4. For operators of public spaces, provide ways for patrons to maintain safe social distancing, for example, maintaining six feet of separation between individuals; have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available; and frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops, hand rails, and door knobs.
5. For workplaces, promote telecommuting; ensure employees do not work while sick; do not require a doctor’s note for employees who are sick; maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits; and minimize the number of employees working within arm’s length of one another.
6. For grocery stores and pharmacies, increase the use and capability of drive-thru, curbside, or delivery services; limit or restrict the number of customers permitted in a store at one time; minimize the number of employees working within arm’s length of one another; provide handwashing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues; and frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails.
7. Determine ways to consider providing support services, including meals, to individuals at increased risk of severe illness while limiting group settings and exposures.
8. Minimize all nonessential travel.