

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-04-02-08**

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORINTH, TEXAS  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND ORDER FOR  
PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19);  
AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), has spread throughout 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, and in some cases the virus has caused death; and

**WHEREAS**, the known cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the State of Texas are currently increasing daily and the disease is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, thus, it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect members of the public, to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and to safeguard public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Community spread COVID-19 cases have been positively confirmed in neighboring cities and counties; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 37.08, "Organization", of Chapter 37, "Emergency Management", of Title III, "Administration", of the City of Corinth's Code of Ordinances, the Mayor serves as the Emergency Management Director of the City's Office of Emergency Management, and in his absence, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall serve in that capacity; and for purposes of this disaster, the city manager or his designee is hereby appointed as the emergency management coordinator; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor has determined it necessary to declare a local state of disaster due to public health emergency, and rather than exercising his authority to issue a declaration of local disaster for a seven-day period and seek extension or continuation by City Council, the Mayor has determined it necessary to present this Ordinance to the City Council to take effect at 10:59 p.m. on April 2, 2020 and to remain in effect until the Mayor declares the emergency terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 37.07, "Mayor's Powers During Disaster or Emergency", of the City's Code of Ordinances, upon declaration of a crisis, the Mayor is vested with the full power and authority to issue orders reasonably necessary to protect the health, security, safety, peace, life and property of the City and its inhabitants during the time of such crisis, as more particularly described in subsections (A)-(GG) of Section 37.07; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 37.09, "Duties and Responsibilities of the Emergency Management Director", of the City's Code of Ordinances further provides that the Mayor shall be authorized to declare the emergency terminated; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation ("GA-08") incorporating Guidelines from President Trump and the United States Centers for Disease Control ("CDC"); and

**WHEREAS**, because it is imperative that the City take action to slow the spread of COVID-19, the Council has reviewed current City functions, including the use of City facilities, City services and operations and public gatherings and has determined it necessary and appropriate to adopt this Ordinance for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORINTH, TEXAS:**

**Section 1. Incorporation of Premises.**

- 1.01. **Recitals.** The premises set forth above are the stated findings of the City Council of the City of Corinth, serve as the basis for and are incorporated into this Ordinance as if written word for word.
- 1.02. **Order of Governor Abbott.** Executive Order, GA-08, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** and is incorporated into this Ordinance as if written word for word. Exhibit "A" shall automatically be amended in accordance with any future Executive Orders issued by Governor Abbott without need for Council action to amend this Ordinance.
- 1.03. **The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America.** The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America are attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** and incorporated into this Ordinance as if written word for word. Exhibit "B" shall automatically be amended in accordance with any future President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America issued by the President without need for Council action to amend this Ordinance.
- 1.04. **The Denton County Disaster Declaration and Executive Order.** The Denton County Disaster Declaration and Executive Order of the Denton County Judge, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit "C"** and incorporated into this Ordinance as if written word for word. Exhibit "C" shall automatically be amended in accordance with any future Denton County Disaster Declaration and Executive Orders issued by the Denton County Judge without need for Council action to amend this Ordinance

**Section 2. Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency Declared.** The City of Corinth Emergency Management Director, Mayor Bill Heidemann, hereby declares a local state of disaster for public health emergency for the City of Corinth, a Texas home-rule municipal corporation, pursuant to Section 37.07, "Mayor's Powers During Disaster or Emergency", of Chapter 37, "Emergency Management", of Title III, "Administration" of the City's Code of Ordinances, effective 10:59 p.m. on April 2, 2020 and shall continue in effect until discontinued by action of the Mayor or as otherwise provided by law.

**Section 3. Publication and Filing of Declaration and Ordinance.** Pursuant to Section 37.09, "Duties and Responsibilities of the Emergency Management Director", of the City's Code of Ordinances, this ordinance declaring a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given in the official newspaper of the City or by local radio or television. The City of Corinth will promptly provide copies of this Ordinance by posting on the City of Corinth website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Ordinance is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Ordinance onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

**Section 4. Orders Adopted.** Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 122.006, the City may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals. Additionally, the City Council is authorized to adopt rules related to the use and operation of City facilities and the provision of City services. Effective as of 10:59 p.m. on April 2, 2020 and continuing in effect until discontinued by action of the Corinth City Council or as otherwise provided by law, the following orders shall apply within the corporate limits of the City of Corinth:

**A. Definitions.**

1. **Community Gathering:** For purposes of this Order, **Community Gathering** is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

2. **Essential Services:** Essential Services means services, by whomsoever rendered, and whether rendered to the government or to any other person, the interruption of which would endanger life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population. Essential services as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum dated March 19, 2020 may continue to their operation appropriately modified to account for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) workforce and consumer protection guidance.

**B. Community Gatherings:** The City of Corinth strongly recommends canceling, rescheduling, or not attending a Community Gathering. The City of Corinth strongly urges organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than ten (10) people. These recommendations are based on the Social Distancing Practices attached to this Order as **Exhibit "D"**, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, as well as the

"Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The City of Corinth urges people to not attend non-essential gatherings of any nature during the duration of this Ordinance in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

- C. **Essential Services and City Facilities.** The City of Corinth provides essential services required to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public generally and of the residents of the City of Corinth; therefore, City facilities necessary for City staff to provide essential services shall remain open to the public; provided however, that social distance shall be practiced at all times within those City facilities that are open to the public.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City Manager may recommend that other actions be taken to limit in person interactions at City facilities and to address City staff, and the Mayor is hereby expressly authorized to provide approval of the City Manager's recommendations and to take such action as necessary to ensure that the purposes of this Ordinance are effected.

- D. **Municipal Court Proceedings.** Nonessential Municipal Court shall be postponed in accordance with orders issued by the Presiding Judge and recommendation of the Office of Court Administration, operating under the direction and supervision of the Texas Supreme Court.
- E. **Fees and Interruption of Utility Services.** The Mayor is authorized to direct the City Manager or designee to take necessary actions regarding fees associated with utility billing, including without limitation, extending time for payment and suspending utility shut offs for customers negatively impacted by job loss or reduced income who can provide verifiable documentation that their hardship is a direct result of COVID-19.
- F. **Board and Commission Meetings.** The Mayor is authorized to postpone or cancel any and all meetings of a board or commission of the City of Corinth as he determines appropriate based upon updated orders of the federal, State or local government.

**Section 5. Penalty.** Failure to comply with any of the Orders in this Ordinance is an offense and shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and each day any violation of the Orders in this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

**Section 6. Severability.** If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Ordinance. This Ordinance approves and ratifies all actions taken in response to COVID-19 prior to its adoption.

## **Exhibit "D"**

### **Social Distancing Practices**

#### **1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings**

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - 60 years old and older.
  - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings (of 10 people or more) unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

#### **2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sickleave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

#### **3) Large Gatherings: Cancel Non-Essential Events**

- Recommend cancelling or postponing large gatherings, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions or large community events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
  - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
  - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
  - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.

#### **4) Schools: Safety First**

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

### **5) Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

### **6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable**

- Long term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long term care facilities should screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Visitors should not go to long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

### **7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Corinth residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak.

Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.

**Section 7. Continuation, Publication and Effective Date.** The emergency powers herein provided shall be exercised only to the extent made necessary by the nature of the emergency and during the continuation of the state of emergency. This ordinance shall be published in accordance with the City's Code of Ordinances; however, it shall become effective immediately at 10:59 p.m. on April 2, 2020.

**DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORINTH  
THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2020.**

APPROVED:



Bill Heidemann, Mayor



ATTEST:

  
Kimberly Pence, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Patricia A. Adams, City Attorney

**CITY OF CORINTH, TEXAS  
MAYORAL ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO CITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE  
DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, has spread throughout 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 and, in some cases, the virus has caused death; and

**WHEREAS**, prudence dictates that extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread through the City of Corinth, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals and occupied structures and, additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or occupied structures to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-14, effective April 2, 2020, extending the statewide public health disaster to April 30, 2020 and ordering, among other things, stay-at-home measures for any person, or entity, not categorized by the order as Essential Services; and

**WHEREAS**, § 418.108 of the Texas Government Code authorizes the presiding officer of the City of Corinth to declare a local state of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, Mayor Bill Heidemann, issued a Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency, which expired on April 8, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2020, the Corinth City Council declared a Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that is currently in effect and will continue to be in effect until discontinued by action of the Mayor or otherwise provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 37.07, "Mayor's Powers During Disaster or Emergency", of the City's Code of Ordinances, upon declaration of a crisis, the Mayor is vested with the full power and authority to issue orders reasonably necessary to protect the health, security, safety, peace, life and property of the City and its inhabitants during the time of such crisis, as more particularly described in subsections (A)-(GG) of Section 37.07; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of disaster continues to exist in all counties in the State of Texas, including Denton County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor finds it necessary to issue this Mayoral Order to issue orders as provided herein to protect the health, security, safety, peace, life and property of the City and its inhabitants.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED AND ORDERED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CORINTH, TEXAS:**

By virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the City of Corinth Disaster Declaration, Ordinance No. 20-04-02-08 (“City Declaration”) and as allowed by state law during a time of local disaster, I do hereby issue this Mayoral Declaration and Order pursuant to Ordinance No. 20-04-02-08 adopted by the City Council on April 2, 2020, declaring a local state of disaster for public health emergency for the City of Corinth, Texas, a home-rule municipality pursuant to Section 37.07, “Mayor’s Powers During Disaster or Emergency”, of Chapter 37, “Emergency Management”, of Title III, “Administration” of the City’s Code of Ordinances, and direct that the following actions occur:

- A. Utilities. City water and wastewater services provided to persons negatively impacted by illness, job loss, or reduced income and who can provide verifiable documentation that their hardship is a direct result of COVID-19 shall not be charged fees for reconnection of disconnected water service or late payment fees.
- B. Level and City Facilities/Operations. The City shall continue to operate on Level Red of its Emergency Management Plan, thus City owned and operated facilities and buildings shall continue to be closed to the public until 8:00 a.m. on May 8, 2020. Members of the public are to conduct business with City staff online and through phone calls. Essential personnel may continue to work from City Offices or work remotely pursuant to current policies in effect.
- C. Meetings of City Council and Boards. City Council and Boards will conduct meeting via teleconferencing, consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

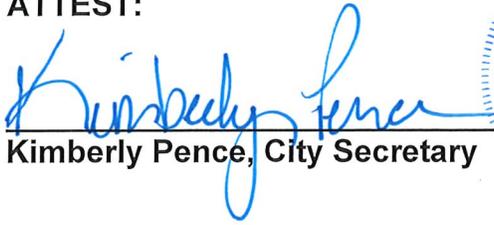
This Mayoral Declaration and Order ratifies prior Level Red actions taken before the effective date of this Declaration and Order. This Declaration and Order shall become effective April 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded by action of the Mayor or City Council or May 8, 2020, whichever occurs first.

April 16, 2020  
**ISSUANCE DATE**



**Bill Heidemann, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Kimberly Pence, City Secretary**