

MAR 20 2020



**FIRST AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and outcomes have ranged 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 and advised countries to prepare for the containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, and prevention of onward spread of the disease; 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**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, continuous spread of the disease presents an imminent threat of widespread illness or loss of life resulting from a global pandemic and other public calamity resulting therefrom, which requires emergency action; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Greg Abbott issued a State of Disaster for all Texas counties for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and on March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott subsequently issued an Executive Order imposing restrictions on citizens and businesses in the State of Texas to prevent further spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, County Judge Glen Whitley issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for Tarrant County for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and on March 18, 2020, Judge Whitley issued a First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency; 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 City Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-32 of the City of North Richland Hills, and the Texas Government Code Section 418.108(a), the Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills is authorized to declare a local state of disaster if a disaster has occurred or is imminent; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Oscar Trevino, the Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills, have determined that due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, extraordinary measures must be taken to prevent and to alleviate the suffering of the citizens of North Richland Hills and to protect the public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of North Richland Hills Emergency Management Plan should be activated and continued to provide for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Oscar Trevino, issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020; and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise on a local, state and national level; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Oscar Trevino, find it necessary to hereby issue this First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency amending, continuing and restating the declaration to implement additional measures to ensure the protection of the general public, and for the health and safety of the citizens of the city of North Richland Hills.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED AND PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a state of local disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the city of North Richland Hills pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-32 of the City of North Richland Hills and Texas Government Code Section 418.108(a).

**SECTION 2.** That this declaration of local disaster shall be in effect for a period not to exceed seven days from this date, unless terminated or continued by action of the City Council of the City of North Richland Hills, Texas. The North Richland Hills City Council has continued this declaration for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days until May 20, 2020.

**SECTION 3.** That this declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of the North Richland Hills Emergency Management Plan, all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans in which the City participates, further authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans, and activates the preparedness and response aspects of such plans as provided therein.

**SECTION 4.** That this declaration authorizes the procurement of all necessary supplies and equipment, including acceptance of private contributions which may be offered for the purpose of improving emergency management within the City.

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes agreements, after approval by the City Attorney, for the City to use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelter or evacuees, subject to compensation requirements, pursuant to Texas Government Code 418.020.

**SECTION 6.** That this declaration authorizes the Mayor to order the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area under his/her authority if the Mayor considers the action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery.

**SECTION 7.** That this declaration authorizes the Mayor to control ingress and egress from a disaster area under his/her jurisdiction or authority and to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.

**SECTION 8.** That this declaration authorizes the City to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the city, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease, provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, and hospitals, and authorizes the fining of those who do not comply with this order pursuant to Health and Safety Code 122.006.

**SECTION 9.** That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to no more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. This declaration does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as different floors of a multi-level office, residential building, or hotel, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This declaration also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where more than 10 people may be present at different times during the day, so long as more than 10 people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection, the Mayor of the City of North Richland Hills strongly encourages compliance with the attached recommendations. The uses in Sections 10, 11, and 12 are not considered "gatherings," but are limited or prohibited as provided in Sections 10, 11, and 12.

**SECTION 10.** That this declaration hereby orders that a restaurant with or without drive-in or drive-through services; drive-in restaurant; drive-through restaurant; or microbrewery, micro-distillery, or winery may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-in or drive-through services as allowed by law.

**SECTION 11.** That this declaration hereby orders the closure of bars, lounges, or taverns; amusement and entertainment venues or uses; theaters; gyms and private clubs, and the closure or restricted access of City facilities and amenities as designated by the City Manager.

**SECTION 12.** That this declaration hereby limits the occupancy of the following locations to 50% occupancy as set forth on the business' certificate(s) of occupancy or 125 individuals, whichever is less:

- a. Event Centers;
- b. Hotel Meeting Spaces, and Ballrooms;

- c. Retail Sales and Services;
- d. Convenience Stores;
- e. Plazas;
- f. Places of Worship; and
- g. Malls (the occupancy of a mall is limited as follows: (i) common areas in a mall to 50% occupancy as set forth in the business's certificate(s) of occupancy or 125 individuals, whichever is less, and (ii) individual Retail Stores within a mall to 50% occupancy as set forth in the business's certificate(s) of occupancy or 125, whichever is less).

This 50% occupancy limit does not apply to any business not listed above, including office buildings, government buildings, critical infrastructure such as airports, airport facilities and transit facilities, residential buildings, grocery stores, manufacturing and industrial locations, non-profit service providers, airports, homeless and emergency shelters, day cares, and medical facilities.

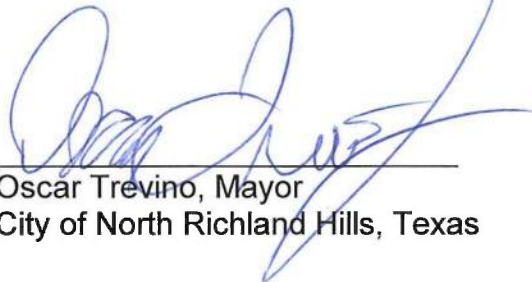
**SECTION 13.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 14.** That this declaration sets forth strong recommendations, attached hereto, for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

**SECTION 15.** That this declaration shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary, and shall be given prompt and general publicity.

**SECTION 16.** That this declaration shall take effect at 11:59pm, March 20, 2020.

**SO DECLARED AND ORDERED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, at 9:08 am.

  
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Oscar Trevino, Mayor  
City of North Richland Hills, Texas

**CITY OF NORTH RICHLAND HILLS RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**FOR MITIGATING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tarrant County Public Health, and the Governor of the State of Texas, the City of North Richland Hills 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 all gatherings of less 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; 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) For door-to-door solicitors, provide ways for solicitors and patrons to maintain safe social distancing of six feet of separation between individuals; ensure compliance with City Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article VII, Sec. 18-481 through 18-493.
- (8) Determine ways to consider providing support services, including meals, to individuals at increased risk of severe illness while limiting group settings and exposures.
- (9) Avoid visiting nursing homes, retirement centers or long-term care facilities, unless providing critical assistance.
- (10) Minimize all nonessential travel.