

# Red River County

Responds to Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency

(Last updated April 1, 2020)

The most recent changes will be immediately after this page.

# Executive Order

BY THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department  
Austin, Texas  
March 31, 2020

## EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 14

*Relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities  
during the COVID-19 disaster.*

---

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to the COVID-19 disaster, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, which called upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-08 is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, absent further action by the governor; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the President announced that, based on advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx say that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, which provides an advisory list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, for state agencies and their employees and agents, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas has advised that local restrictions issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster do not apply to restrict the conduct of state business; and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

WHEREAS, all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational; and

WHEREAS, the “governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters” under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the “governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the “governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business ... if strict compliance with the provisions ... would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the “governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), the “governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

“Essential services” shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from

home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

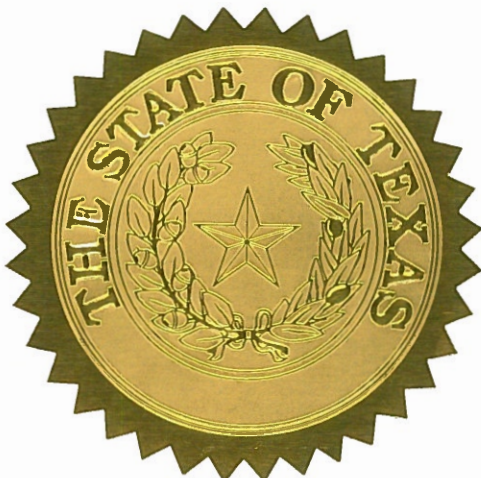
This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order. I hereby suspend Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-08, but not Executive Orders GA-09, GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, or GA-13, and shall remain in effect and in full force until April 30, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 31st day of  
March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 31, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

  
Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701

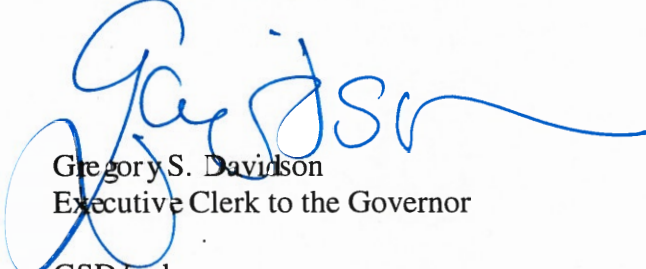
Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services  
and activities during the COVID-19 disaster.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor  
GSD/gsd

Attachment

ATTESTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RUTH R. HUGHS  
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK  
MAR 31 2020

**RED RIVER COUNTY**

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY,  
*EXTENDED & AMENDED DECLARATION***

**WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and**

**WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and**

**WHEREAS, the COVID-19 mainly 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 for the protection of the people of Red River County, and**

**WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease, and**

**WHEREAS, this Declaration activates the County's Emergency Management Plan, and**

**WHEREAS, the County Judge of Red River County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency,**

**THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by the County Judge of Red River County that:**

- 1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Red River County pursuant to 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.**
- 2. The State of Disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of the declaration, unless continued or renewed by the Red River County Commissioners Court, pursuant to 418.108(b) of the Government Code.**
- 3. This Declaration of a Local State of Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to 418.108(c) of the Government Code.**
- 4. This Declaration of a Local State of Disaster activates the Red River County Emergency Plan, pursuant to 418.108(d) of the Government Code.**
- 5. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.**
- 6. This Declaration authorizes the County Judge to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the coronavirus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals and other hospitals, and ensuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County rules and directives.**

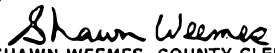


- 7. That all Game Rooms shall be closed beginning at 11:59 P.M. on March 25, 2020, and continuing until such time as this Declaration of Disaster shall expire. Game Rooms, which are operated within other businesses, such as convenience stores and restaurants, may continue operations of those other businesses, pursuant to the President and Governor's proclamations, as long as all games are non-operational.
- 8. This Declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings of not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A gathering refers generally to a scheduled event, a common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.
- 9. As of Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, effective at 10:00 P.M. a curfew is set in place from this date forward until further notice, for Red River County to begin each night at 10:00 P.M. until the following morning at 6:00 A.M.
- 10. In accordance with Texas Govt. Code 418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this Declaration commits an offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 or confinement in Jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
- 11. This Declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.
- 12. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and upon approval of the Commissioners Court shall continue in effect until terminated by the County Judge. Pursuant to this Declaration, additional directives may be issued by the County Judge as being necessary.

ORDERED on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

SIGNED:   
 L.D. Williamson, County Judge

FILED FOR RECORD  
9:23 o'clock A. M. on

5/ MAR 30 2020  
  
 SHAWN WEEMES, COUNTY CLERK  
 RED RIVER CO., TX



# This is an official **CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network  
March 28, 2020, 11:00 AM ET  
CDCHAN-00431

## **Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

### **Summary**

Chloroquine phosphate, when used without a prescription and supervision of a healthcare provider, can cause serious health consequences, including death. Clinicians and public health officials should discourage the public from misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate (a chemical used in home aquariums). Clinicians should advise patients and the public that chloroquine, and the related compound hydroxychloroquine, should be used only under the supervision of a healthcare provider as prescribed medications.

### **Background**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has become aware of two individuals who ingested non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate, a chemical for aquarium use that is commercially available for purchase at stores and through internet websites. One of the individuals died shortly after arrival to the hospital. The second individual was critically ill with severe gastrointestinal symptoms and cardiac conduction abnormalities. Upon recovery, the surviving individual reported to the media that they ingested the product to prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2, which causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), after seeing information on the medical use of chloroquine on television. The product in their possession was in powder form inside a 2.2-lb. container and labeled “for Ornamental Fish Use Only”. CDC is also aware of unconfirmed media reports that these commercially available aquarium-use chemicals may be out of stock due to potential increased demand by the public.

At this time, there are no routinely available pharmaceutical products that are FDA-approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat specific medical conditions, such as malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis. Currently, these medications are being studied and evaluated as treatment for COVID-19; however, their efficacy to either prevent or treat this infection are unknown. In overdose situations or when used inappropriately, these medications can lead to severe toxicity, including cardiac rhythm disturbances such as prolonged QT, severe hypokalemia, cardiovascular collapse, seizures, coma, and death. Inappropriate uses include taking commercially available non-pharmaceutical preparations, taking chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate without a prescription, and taking additional doses not recommended by a healthcare provider. Chloroquine phosphate has a narrow therapeutic index—it can be toxic at levels not much higher than those used for treatment—which raises the risk of inadvertent overdose.

### **Recommendations for Clinicians and Public Health Officials**

1. Educate patients on the serious risks of misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine products and other aquarium use chemicals.
2. Counsel your patients on the importance of taking medications only as prescribed and as directed by healthcare providers.
3. Contact your local poison center (1-800-222-1222) to report cases and to obtain specific medical management of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine poisoning.
4. Adverse events related to pharmaceuticals can be reported to the FDA MedWatch program (<https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program>).

Adverse events related to non-pharmaceutical products can be reported by emailing [FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov) or calling 1-888-InfoFDA (1-888-463-6332).

### Recommendations for the Public

1. Do **not** ingest aquarium use products or any other chemicals that contain chloroquine phosphate. These chemicals are not intended for human consumption and can lead to serious health consequences, including death.
2. Medications like chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate should be taken only when prescribed by and under the supervision of your healthcare provider and always according to the instructions provided.
3. Seek immediate medical attention if you are experiencing any unexpected symptoms after taking chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine by contacting your healthcare provider or your poison center (1-800-222-1222).

### For More Information

- CDC coronavirus website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>)
- U.S. Government coronavirus website (<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>)
- FDA Letter to Stakeholders (<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/product-safety-information/fda-letter-stakeholders-do-not-use-chloroquine-phosphate-intended-fish-treatment-covid-19-humans>)
- Banner Health (Phoenix, AZ) press release (<https://bannerhealth.mediaroom.com/chloroquinephosphate>)
- Dailymed (<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm>) for medical prescribing information
- American College of Medical Toxicology (<https://www.acmt.net>) for poisoning information
- Association of American Poison Control Centers (<https://www.aapcc.org>)

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.*

---

### Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

**Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance  
**Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation  
**Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation  
**HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##

**RED RIVER COUNTY**

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and**

**WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death, and**

**WHEREAS, the COVID-19 mainly 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 for the protection of the people of Red River County, and**

**WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease, and**

**WHEREAS, this Declaration activates the County's Emergency Management Plan, and**


**WHEREAS, the County Judge of Red River County has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency,**

**THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by the County Judge of Red River County that:**

- 1. A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Red River County pursuant to 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.**
- 2. The State of Disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of the declaration, unless continued or renewed by the Red River County Commissioners Court, pursuant to 418.108(b) of the Government Code.**
- 3. This Declaration of a Local State of Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to 418.108(c) of the Government Code.**
- 4. This Declaration of a Local State of Disaster activates the Red River County Emergency Plan, pursuant to 418.108(d) of the Government Code.**
- 5. This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.**

**ORDERED on this, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, at 12 Noon.**

**SIGNED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**L.D. Williamson, County Judge**

# There are NO known cases of Covid-19 in Red River county at this time

- Precautions

- Wash hands
- If you or someone you know is coughing, sneezing, or running a fever STAY HOME.
- With active cough or sneezing, cover your mouth and/or nose. Wash hands immediately afterward.
- The most accurate source of information can be found on the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

# Still Active

- All essential services are still operational (April 1, 2020)
- Drive thru eating establishments are still open
- Banks that have drive thru banking and ATM banking available .
- County offices are in operation but are not open to the public at this time.
- Emergency personnel are responding ie. police, EMS, and Sheriffs. (Please indicate any known potential for infection when requesting assistance.)

# Closures

- All county public schools
- County public library (see their flyer attached)
- Area churches
- Forestry office
- District Court has canceled court for this week and next week
- Area nursing homes - No visitation
- Extension Office

## **Red River County Public Library**

After careful consideration of the rapidly-evolving COVID-19/Coronavirus situation, **The Red River County Public Library will be closed effective immediately.**

*Containment measures that are in place **BEFORE** the virus emerges in a community are most effective! We feel it is important, and our duty, to be proactive in taking any preventive actions that we can to protect the health our patrons and our community. We urge all members of the community to follow the CDC guidelines found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>*

**HOWEVER**, we are well aware how fundamental reading is to stave off loneliness, pass the time, and of course help us manage our mental health. During this time (that feels more like the plot of a novel than real life) we will be offering the following:

### **DRIVE-UP, CARRYOUT SERVICE**

**During select hours, staff will be available to put your items in a designated spot by our library door.** Our building will remain closed to the public, but we are happy to check out books and movies to keep you busy at home! *Items will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.* Because of expected disruptions to our delivery service, we can not guarantee a specific title for you.

**You may search our card catalog on [rrlibrary.org](http://rrlibrary.org) or ask us for recommendations.** Please keep your requests simple like "picture books w animals" or "Mary Higgins Clark or similar authors" or "funny movies rated PG-13 or lower."

**You can send your requests by email, Facebook message, or text.**  
Call us: 903-427-3991  
Email us at: [rrlibrary@email.com](mailto:rrlibrary@email.com)  
Facebook message us: Red River County Public Library  
Text: 580-579-0511

### **Scheduled Drive-Up Hours**

Monday 12pm-5pm  
Tuesday 9am-12pm  
1pm-5pm  
Wednesday 12pm-5pm  
Thursday 12pm-5pm