



**DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY CITY OF GRAHAM, TEXAS**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID – 19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus;

WHEREAS, Texas Governor, Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID – 19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Young County Judge, John C. Bullock issued a Local Declaration of Imminent Disaster issued on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID – 19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout, Texas, Young County and the City of Graham; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID – 19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Presidents Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID – 19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that as of March 19, 2020, CIVID – 19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 “the Governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters” (Section 418.001 of the Texas Government Code), and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Charter for the City of Graham as well as applicable State Law designate the Mayor as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Graham, Texas; and I declare the following consistent with the Executive Order of the Governor of the State of Texas;

I therefore decree that, In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Graham, Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

I therefore decree that, In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

I therefore decree that, In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

I therefore decree that, In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

Further this declaration does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks and banks so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID - 19. This decree does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For the offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID - 19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID - 19 will be contained and the sooner this declaration will be allowed to expire.

Whereas, this Declaration of Public Health Emergency is in effect for the City of Graham from the date of this declaration until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020 by order of the Governor of the State of Texas.

Signed this the 19th day of March, 2020



Neal Blanton, Mayor, City of Graham



Brandon Anderson, City Manager and Witness