

## JOINT DISASTER DECLARATION

**Whereas**, the spread of COVID-19 poses a threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Colorado County and threatens the functions and operations of the local hospitals, medical clinics, healthcare providers, EMS ambulance service, county offices and city offices; and

**Whereas**, the United States Federal Government declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

**Whereas**, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

**NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY JUDGE FOR COLORADO COUNTY AND THE MAYORS OF COLUMBUS, EAGLE LAKE AND WEIMAR, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the County Judge and Mayors and made a part hereof for all purposes.

**SECTION 2.** This Order shall be read to comply with Executive Order No. GA-08 signed on March 19, 2020 at 11:59 a.m. by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, which: prohibits gatherings of groups of 10 or more people; closes gyms and licensed massage businesses; prohibits visitation to nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and temporarily closes schools. This Order shall not exceed nor conflict with Executive Order No. GA-08 and is being jointly adopted and published to remove any possible misinterpretation of prior county and city declarations of disaster.

**SECTION 3.** This Order is effective upon signing and continues until ~~11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020~~ <sup>March 27, 2020</sup>, unless terminated, extended, or modified ~~by an earlier order~~, the County Judge and Mayors, deem it in the public interest to order that:

(a) Subject to this Order, dining on the premises of Food Establishments shall cease until March 27, 2020. Nothing herein precludes the provision of any other food service, such as to-go, take out, or delivery services, by such businesses.

(b) Food Establishments, with or without drive-in or drive-through services and food court dining areas, microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries, may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.

(c) This order does not apply to the following:

(1) Food Establishments located in hospitals, long term medical care facilities, rehabilitation or medical facilities, child care facilities, group homes, crisis and homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, congregate care facilities, long term care facilities, jails and detention facilities; and

(2) Food banks serving low income citizens and nonprofits providing food to the homeless and the economically disadvantaged.

(d) Consuming alcoholic beverages within the enclosed premises of any Food Establishment or bar shall cease until March 27, 2020. Businesses within Colorado County that have permits to operate as bars, nightclubs, lounges, taverns, or private clubs shall close, unless the business is also permitted to operate as a Food Establishment and such operation shall be limited as provided herein. Hotel and Country Club bars must close, except that any permitted food or beverage service, including alcoholic beverages, may be continued as take out, delivery, or drive-through services. Additionally, hotels may provide room service. Nothing in this order affects the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption as permitted by State or local law.

(e) Food Establishments which choose to remain open in accordance with Section 2 must take steps to enforce a 6 foot distancing among the public they are servicing.


**SECTION 4:** Failure to comply with this Order shall be reported to the Texas Department of Emergency Management and may be punishable by a fine or confinement in jail.

**SECTION 5:** Colorado County and the Cities will post this Order on its website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order 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 provisions of this Order.

**SECTION 6:** This Order applies to all unincorporated and incorporated areas within the boundaries of Colorado County and supersedes and replaces any order issued by the County or Cities of Columbus, Eagle Lake or Weimar, Texas.


Cities of Columbus, Eagle Lake or Weimar, Texas.

**ORDERED** this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, at 12:15 am/pm in Colorado County, Texas.



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**TY PRAUSE**  
**COLORADO COUNTY JUDGE**



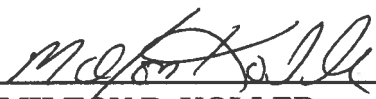
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**LORI AN GOBERT**  
**MAYOR OF COLUMBUS**



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**MARY PARR**  
**MAYOR OF EAGLE LAKE**



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**MILTON R. KOLLER**  
**MAYOR OF WEIMAR**