



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
County of Hidalgo

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
c/o Chief Nim Kidd
Texas Division of Emergency Management
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Dear Governor Abbott:

The County of Hidalgo is facing significant threats to life and health due to the COVID-19 virus which has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus. The State of Texas has already taken numerous steps to prepare for COVID-19, including coordinating preparedness efforts across state agencies, and working with local partners to promote appropriate mitigation efforts.

The potential impact of this threat is significant since the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another, and may adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare of a large number of residents of the County. Therefore, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout the County of Hidalgo. The County of Hidalgo's Emergency Management Plan has been implemented for preparation and response efforts.

I have determined that this virus is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capability of the County of Hidalgo to control. Pursuant to §433.001 of the Texas Government Code, I am requesting that you declare a State of Public Health Emergency for the County of Hidalgo and issue appropriate directives to deal with the emergency.

Furthermore, I am asking that successive proclamations be issued and remain in effect until the threat of the virus is controlled and no longer resulting in loss of life.

Your consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to contact me regarding this matter, please do at (956) 318-2600.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge
Hidalgo County, Texas