



# City of Wharton

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Mayor Issues Proclamation of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency**

*Wharton, TX, March 16, 2020 –*

The Mayor of the City of Wharton has issued a Proclamation of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency as of 1 P.M. today. As the City of Wharton continues to monitor closely the emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the disease it causes, named “coronavirus disease 2019” (COVID-19) there are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community but the City is continuing to take proactive steps to monitor and address the situation. The declaration gives the Mayor the authority, if it becomes needed, to ban community gatherings of people according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC)’s guidelines and, additionally, potentially require individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo measures that prevent or control the spread of disease.

The first priority of the City is to maintain a safe community and protect the health of citizens and employees. The City of Wharton has cancelled or postponed all events scheduled to be held at the Wharton Civic Center where a large number of attendees was expected. As requested previously, we ask all citizens to cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases and to do the following:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth with tissues whenever you cough or sneeze, and discard used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid people who are sick with respiratory symptoms.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

The City of Wharton will continue to monitor the situation for the safety of all citizens and wants to remind residents to sign up today for the emergency alert system to keep you better informed of emergency situations, City related issues and notifications. The signup for the system can be found on the City of Wharton website at [www.cityofwharton.com](http://www.cityofwharton.com) by clicking the Sign Up For Smart911 button. Please stay informed by tuning into local radio or local television stations.

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