July 15, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his authority as the Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. John Hellerstedt has issued the following:

A renewal of the June 15, 2020 declaration of a Public Health Disaster Declaration, stating that the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, that causes the disease COVID-19) continues to present an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease’s method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

The original declaration is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully,

Barbara L. Klein, J.D., EMPL
General Counsel

Attachment
Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D.

DECLARATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

July 15, 2020

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, 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 (SAR-CoV-2, which causes the disease known as COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas renewed the disaster proclamation under his authority under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code;

WHEREAS I have determined that COVID-19 continues to present an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease’s method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas.

THEREFORE, I, John Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of Public Health, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 81.082(d) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, hereby extend the declaration of a state of public health disaster for the entire State of Texas.

Pursuant to Section 81.002 of the code, each person shall act responsibly to prevent and control communicable disease. The following actions, taken immediately, will reduce and delay the spread of COVID-19:

- Individuals and communities shall immediately undertake hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation practices that are accessible, affordable and known to be effective against COVID-19.
- Individuals shall abide by Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Orders.
- Individuals who are known to have, or are under investigation or monitoring for COVID-19, shall adhere to the direction provided to them by duly
authorized persons, including public health officials. Failure to abide by such
direction may result in involuntary isolation for the purposes of preventing
further community spread of COVID-19.

• Individuals who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with
influenza or COVID-19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover.
Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if
their symptoms are such that they cannot continue to be cared for where
they are.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services will continue to provide the
most current and practical advice on how to control the spread of COVID-19
and encourages all Texans to seek additional information from a trusted
source such as https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/ or from the
Centers for Disease Control at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/.

Adherence to these rules and the sound public health principles that support
them will provide optimal protection for the people of Texas. These measures
are necessary to advance the health and safety of all Texans.

This declaration supersedes any previous public health disaster declaration.

Copies of this proclamation will be filed with applicable authorities.

Given under my hand this the

JOHN W. HELLERSTEDT, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health

ATTESTED BY:

Ruth Hughes
Secretary of State