

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Mayor Lou Ann Everett, City of Canton
Date: March 17, 2020
Re: Emergency Declaration in the City of Canton
Contact: Emergency Management Coordinator Bud Sanford
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Following recommendations of the federal and state government, the Mayor of the City of Canton, Texas, has issued a Declaration of Local Disaster due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus.

"The continued spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Canton," stated Mayor Lou Ann Everett. "The implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease."

The disaster declaration activates Canton's Emergency Management Plan that limits gatherings of 250 or more within the City of Canton. The declaration also opens the door to receive federal and state resources to the city, and gives small businesses the ability to seek the assistance of the Small Business Administration if they've been affected. The assistance could include receiving loans and financial support.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases in the City of Canton and this does not apply to schools and retailers. The Council will meet within seven days to decide how long it will last.

In taking this action, the City has cancelled the April 2-5, 2020 First Monday Trade Days. "The safety of our citizens, vendors, visitors, and employees remains our highest priority. Closing First Monday due to COVID-19 was a hard decision because it supports more than 1,000 entrepreneurs and local merchants who rely on this market for their livelihood. But, we feel closing the April 2-5, 2020 Trade Days is in the best interest of our local community and the thousands of folks who come from all over the country to sell and shop at First Monday, Canton. We want to help fight the spread of this virus and hope you join us in our efforts," said Mayor Everett.

Health and government officials are encouraging people to avoid groups and stay home if possible. City leaders are also asking you to help each other. Please safely watch after neighbors, support your local businesses and independent contractors, and remember wait staff who depend on tips for their income.