

**STAYS IN FILE****DECLARATION OF DISASTER  
REGARDING THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Travis, Texas on this 9th day of August, 2022, is experiencing a number of Monkeypox virus cases and there is a need for ongoing resources and coordination to respond to the outbreak caused by the Monkeypox virus;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox;

**WHEREAS**, due to the ongoing outbreak of the Monkeypox virus, the County of Travis, is suffering a public calamity that requires emergency action;

**WHEREAS**, as of 5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2022, of the 8,934 confirmed cases nationwide, a total of 702 confirmed orthopoxvirus/monkeypox cases - a designation established by the CDC - have been identified in Texas, with 68 confirmed or probable cases in Austin-Travis County, and in addition Austin Public Health is monitoring hundreds of potential exposures;

**WHEREAS**, Austin Public Health has received only 3,154 of the 56,000 doses of vaccine available nationwide during phase 1. Currently, vaccine eligibility has been prioritized for post-exposure prophylaxis for close contacts of known cases. The CDC expects two more phases of vaccine to be available later this year;

**WHEREAS**, due to the limited availability of the vaccine, cases will continue to increase unless the public takes appropriate steps to stop the spread of the Monkeypox virus;

**WHEREAS**, the public can find the best information currently available, potential resources, and appropriate steps to prevent the spread of the disease at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/monkeypox>;

**WHEREAS**, the public should be aware of the following information regarding the spread of the Monkeypox virus:

- Monkeypox spreads through close physical contact between people, and anybody can get monkeypox. While cases in the current outbreak were initially in individuals with multiple sexual partners, the portion of cases from non-sexual transmission amongst the general population is expected to continue to increase
- Monkeypox can affect anyone – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity
- Residents of the City of Austin and Travis County, especially those at higher risk for exposure due to social factors or occupation, should use appropriate precautions to avoid exposure
- Residents of the City of Austin and Travis County who have been exposed to monkeypox should seek medical care to discuss the availability and appropriateness of vaccination to help prevent the development of monkeypox and further spread of the disease;

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with provisions of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, Section 418.108 Texas Government Code, a state of disaster is being declared as a public calamity due to the Monkeypox virus in Travis County and presents an imminent and substantial danger to the residents of Travis County;

**WHEREAS**, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code;

**WHEREAS**, Texas Government Code Chapter 418, Section 418.108 authorizes the County Judge of a county to declare a local state of disaster, and exercise the powers granted therein on an appropriate local scale;

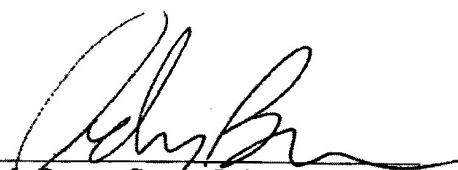
**WHEREAS**, by this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority granted to the County Judge under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the County's response to this situation.


**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority granted to me by the Texas Disaster Act, Government Code, Chapter 18, section 418.018 and the Travis County Emergency Management Plan and as Presiding Officer for Travis County, I do hereby declare a state of emergency and disaster, and public calamity due to the monkeypox virus and Order:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Travis County, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
4. Pursuant to section 418.018(d) of the Government Code, this declaration activates the County's emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, the County may take actions necessary to protect the health of persons in the County.
6. That this Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this the 9th day of August, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Brown, County Judge  
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Guerrero, County Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUG 10 2022**



**2022135569**

**FILED AND RECORDED  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ra", is written over the printed name.

**Rebecca Guerrero, County Clerk  
Travis County, Texas**

**Aug 10, 2022 08:17 AM**

**Fee: \$0.00**

**MARTINE**