

# PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT CATASTROPHE NOTICE

Governmental Bodies: Please review instructions on the back of this page prior to completing the form. Instructions may also be viewed at <http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/catastrophe-notice>.

## SECTION 1 – GOVERNMENTAL BODY IMPACTED BY THE CATASTROPHE

### GOVERNMENT CODE § 552.233

Pursuant to section 552.233(b), a governmental body may suspend the applicability of the requirements of the Public Information Act (the "Act") if the governmental body is currently impacted by a catastrophe and provides proper notice in accordance with this section.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

(Name of Governmental Body Impacted by Catastrophe) PLEASE PRINT

## SECTION 2 – IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE CATASTROPHE

Section 552.233(a)(1) defines catastrophe as a "condition or occurrence that interferes with the ability of a governmental body to comply with the requirements of this chapter[.]" Identify and describe the catastrophe impacting the governmental body:

The catastrophe is the COVID 19 epidemic referenced in the Presidential Declaration of a National Emergency, March 13, 2020, the Governors Disaster Proclamation of March 13, 2020, Executive Order GA-08 of March 19, 2020, and the DSHS Declaration of a Public Health Disaster of March 19, 2020.

## SECTION 3 – SUSPENSION PERIOD

The initial suspension period may not exceed seven consecutive days and must occur during the period that (1) begins not earlier than the second day before the date the governmental body submits notice of the Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG"); and (2) ends not later than the seventh date after the governmental body submits that notice. See Gov't Code § 552.233(d).

Beginning Date of Initial Suspension: Monday, March 23, 2020

End Date of Initial Suspension: Sunday, March 29, 2020

**TO THE PUBLIC:** For questions regarding this notice or if you believe a violation of the Act has occurred, please contact the **OAG Open Government Hotline** at (512) 478-6736 or toll free 1-877-673-6839.

## SECTION 4 – GOVERNMENTAL BODY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Signature: Carey E. Smith Digitally signed by Carey E. Smith  
Date: 2020.03.20 08:46:28 -0500 Date: March 20, 2020