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Hon. Leward J. LaFleur
Marion County Judge

March 19, 2020

To the People of Marion County,

In the last few days and weeks we have faced something no one in our lifetime has had to face. I urge you to be calm, strong, and vigilant as ever! We are facing a silent enemy who creeps through our lives undetected.

Governor Gregg Abbott issued an executive order today to suspend in house dining in restaurants, closing bars, gyms, and schools until April 3, 2020 beginning at midnight Friday. In turn I signed an order declaring Marion County in a state of disaster. I did this for two reasons.

1. This activates the Marion County Emergency Plan
2. Allows different financial avenues for Marion County, help from national and state disaster plans.

We as a county have been caught between a rock and a hard place. We have no cure and no way to know where it will strike next. After much counsel I tell you its no longer if but when we will have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

In this situation there is no right or wrong answer. I now urge you to form a vital role into trying to combat this virus. Please adhere to the CDC recommendations. We are the only ones who can keep this virus at bay.

I do not want you to live in fear, I hope and pray that we as citizens can do what needs to be done to slow this virus down as to not over extend our healthcare system in East Texas.

As we move forward please remember I fully intend to do whatever necessary to combat the COVID-19 in Marion County. We have a measured response to whatever may be coming and we will keep the best interest of the people of Marion County at the forefront of the conversations and decisions.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out. Office 903-665-3261, Cell 903-930-1782, or email leward.lafleur@co.marion.tx.us

Continue to pray for our nation, state, and Marion County

Respectfully,

Judge Leward J. LaFleur

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. LaFleur", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.