## JOINT STATEMENT OF BASTROP COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (Includes Bastrop County, City of Bastrop, City of Elgin, City of Smithville)

March 30, 2020

Today Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape announced an Order for Bastrop County residents asking everyone to Stay Home and Stay Safe from COVID-19. The order will be effective on March 31, 2020 at 11:59 PM and is set to expire on April 30, 2020 at 11:59 PM.

Judge Pape is joined by Mayor Connie Schroeder of Bastrop, Mayor Chris Cannon of Elgin, and Mayor Scott Saunders, Jr. of Smithville, in announcing this Order and requesting everyone in the county to Stay Home and Stay Safe.

"Today Dr. Desmar Walkes, our Local Health Authority, announced three (3) additional positive cases of COVID-19 in Bastrop County. This brings our total to six (6)," said Judge Pape. "I am thankful to our residents for the tremendous voluntary compliance for social distancing and staying at home. Keep it up."

The Order requires those who may have COVID-19 to seek pre-arranged medical care. It also addresses those who have tested positive, or who have a presumptive positive diagnosis by a medical doctor, to self-isolate as well as their family members.

The Order also addresses limited social gatherings, merchant plans for keeping shoppers safer from the virus, and limits on some purchases. It requires merchants and store owners to develop and implement procedures to limit the spread of the virus to the employees and shoppers. It also addresses some specifics of social gatherings. Finally, to help merchants and prevent over-buying, the Order places mandatory limits on the sale or purchase of certain kinds of items.

Together Bastrop County officials stress the importance of staying at home and practicing proper personal hygiene to slow the spread of COVID-19.