March 2, 2020

I issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency for a narrow reason – to give the City of San Antonio the ability to force additional quarantine time on the Diamond Princess evacuees who may have been exposed to the coronavirus before being brought to Joint Base San Antonio Lackland. The declaration provides leverage to ensure further testing.

I exercised an abundance of caution by using this tool so we can be certain that that residents and visitors alike can continue to enjoy San Antonio’s treasures just as we are today. I had to declare an emergency to get the legal authority we needed.

The declaration is only a device to ensure that San Antonio remains safe and a delightful place to work and play. We jealously guard our quality of life.

Please come visit. San Antonio is as wonderful as ever.

Sincerely,

Ron Nirenberg
MAYOR