

4:51 FILED
AT 1:51 O'CLOCK P.M.

JUL 20 2020



BY ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR. COUNTY CLERK
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS DEPUTY

COUNTY ORDER 20-011 RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and,

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the consent of the Commissioners Court authorizes the Hidalgo County Judge to continue to exercise powers granted under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Cortez has previously issued Emergency Orders Related to the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency, which limited outdoor gatherings to no more than 100-hundred (100) people in unincorporated areas of the County of Hidalgo, in accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-28; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas and Hidalgo County has seen an increase in the number of cases and hospitalizations related to COVID-19, resulting in continued single daily record high reported cases, without a downward trajectory since Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-028 on June 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott, by Proclamation, amended Executive Order GA-28, and issued Executive Order GA-29, related to the use of face covering during the COVID-19 disaster;

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT of 1975, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez does hereby issue Hidalgo County Order 20-011 effective at **12:01 a.m., July 22, 2020** as follows:

SHELTER-AT-HOME:

All individuals currently living within Hidalgo County, Texas **are ORDERED to SHELTER-AT-HOME in their residence**. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain Physical Distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

It is highly encouraged and recommended that all commercial businesses operating within Hidalgo County, except essential covered businesses should cease all activities at facilities that may not be provided by curbside, drive-through, or take-out services.

SHELTER-AT-HOME CURFEW:

1. In addition to the mandate to Shelter-At-Home, all persons aged seventeen (17) and under shall be accompanied by a parent or guardian when participating in essential activity, unless that person is out for a medical emergency or to providing covered and essential services.
2. In addition to the mandate to Shelter-At-Home, all persons aged eighteen (18) and over shall be imposed from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM, unless that person is out for a medical emergency, to provide covered essential services, or any other purpose permitted under this Order.

For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence, in compliance with the SHELTER-AT-HOME and CURFEW, only to obtain or provide the following essential activities:

- i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).
- ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of households, or to deliver those services or supplies to others.
- iii. To engage in outdoor activity, such as visiting open parks, hunting or fishing, engaging in physical activity like walking, running or bicycling, provided the individuals, follow CDC guidance, comply with Physical Distancing including maintaining six-foot (6) physical distancing from each other; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and covering mouth and nose when conducting activity within six feet(6) of another person.
- iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an essential covered business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
- v. To care for a family member, a child or pet in another household.

TRAVEL:

To the greatest extent possible, all travel during the SHELTER-AT-HOME and CURFEW within the jurisdiction of Hidalgo to County should be limited to obtaining or performing essential covered services, travel as permitted by law, or as follow:

1. “Essential Travel” includes travel for any of the following purposes:

- a) Any travel related to the provision of or access to essential covered services.
- b) Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- c) Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and business operations.
- d) Travel to return to a place of residence, including from outside the jurisdiction
- e) Travel to return from a place of employment, including from outside the jurisdiction.
- f) Travel required by First Responders, Law Enforcement or court order.
- g) Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County.

Travel should be limited to no more than two (2) persons per vehicle for persons obtaining essential services, and four (4) persons per vehicles for essential Healthcare Operations, Government Functions, Essential Commercial services, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*.

- 2. Public Transportation may only be used for purposes of obtaining or performing:
 - a) Essential covered services.
 - b) To travel to and from work for the purposes of providing Covered Services.

All Public Transportation activities must be performed in compliance with physical distancing including, to the extent possible, maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds often or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and requiring the wearing of facial covering mouth and nose.

FACIAL COVERING

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-29, every person in the County of Hidalgo shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space; wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet (6) of physical distancing from another person not in the same household; provided however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to the following:

- 1. Any person younger than 10 years of age;
- 2. Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- 3. Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
- 4. Any person while the person is (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household;
- 5. Any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- 6. Any person obtaining services that requires temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while

- visiting a bank or while obtaining a personal care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
7. Any person while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
 8. Any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or activity administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
 9. Any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
 10. Any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Proclamation amending Executive Order GA-28, any outdoor gathering in excess of ten (10) people is prohibited, unless the Mayor of the City in which the gathering is held, or the Hidalgo County Judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves of the gathering, and such approval is made subject to applicable conditions or restrictions.

The following outdoor areas or outdoor venues shall operate at no more than fifty percent (50%) of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner:

- 1.) Professional, collegiate, or similar sporting events;
- 2.) Swimming pools;
- 3.) Water parks;
- 4.) Museums and libraries;
- 5.) Zoo, aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities;
- 6.) Rodeos and equestrian events;
- 7.) Amusement parks and carnivals.

This is no occupancy limit for the following:

- a. Any services listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*, Version 3.1 or any subsequent version;
- b. Religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship;
- c. Local government operations, including county and municipal government operations relating to licensing (including marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, document-filing services, as determined by the local government;
- d. Child-care services;
- e. Youth camps, including but not limited to those defined as such under Chapter 141 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and including all summer camps, and other daytime and overnight camps for youth;
- f. Recreational sports programs for youths and adults;

Except as provided in this Order or in the minimum standard health protocols recommended by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus, people shall not be in groups larger than ten (10) and shall maintain six feet (6) of physical distancing from those

not in their group or household.

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29, following a verbal or written warning for a first-time violation of this face covering, a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29, local law enforcement and local officials should enforce this Order, as well as other local restrictions that are consistent with this Order and other Governor Abbott effective Executive Orders.

No law enforcement or other official may detain, arrest, or confine in jail any person for a violation of this Order, provided however that law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws and remove violators at the request of a business establishment or other property owner.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until, **11:59p.m. August 5, 2020**, unless it is modified, rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law, the status of COVID-19 in the County of Hidalgo, Texas. This Order supersedes prior Orders, as it relates to outdoor gatherings, and in the event of a conflict or apparent conflict between the Orders, this Order shall control.

It is the intent of this Order to remain as consistent with executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott. This Order is in addition to the executive orders issued by Governor Greg Abbott. As such, to the extent that this County Order may be inconsistent with any orders issued by the Governor, then the Governor's Order shall control, but only to the extent this order may not restrict essential services or covered services, allow gatherings prohibited by Executive Order GA-26, or expand essential services or covered services set forth in Executive Order GA-26.

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

ORDERED this 20th day of July 2020

Richard F. Cortez

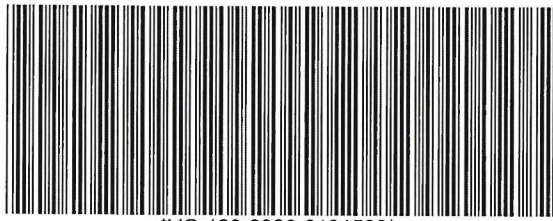
Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo

Arturo Guajardo, Hidalgo County Clerk





VG-120-2020-3131523

Hidalgo County
Arturo Guajardo Jr.
County Clerk
Edinburg, Texas 78540

Document No: 3131523

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*****Examined and Charged as Follows*****

Total Recording: \$ 0.00

*****THIS PAGE IS PART OF THE DOCUMENT*****

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Deputy Clerk: Tania Rivera
Station: CH-1-CC-K32

Record and Return To:

Hidalgo County Judges Office, Richard F
100 E. Cano St. 2nd Floor

Edinburg TX 78539



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

I hereby certify that this Instrument was FILED in the File Number sequence on the date/time printed hereon, and was duly RECORDED in the Official Records of Hidalgo County, Texas.

Arturo Guajardo Jr.
County Clerk
Hidalgo County, Texas



Hidalgo County Clerk
Arturo Guajardo Jr.
P.O. Box 58
Edinburg, Texas 78540

Main: (956) 318-2100

Fax: (956) 318-2105

ORIGINAL COPY

Receipt No: 20200720000311
Date: 07/20/2020
Time: 04:54PM
Deputy Clerk: Tania Rivera
Station: CH-1-CC-K32

Issued To: Hidalgo County Judges Office, Rich
100 E. Cano St. 2nd Floor

Edinburg , TX 78539

Recording Fees

Item No.	Item	Document No.	Serial No.	GF Number	Amount
1	Real Property Recordings	3131523			\$0.00

Collected Amounts

Item No.	Payment	Transaction Id	Comment	Amount
1				\$0.00

Total Received: \$0.00
Order Total: \$0.00
Refund Due: \$0.00

Thank you.