



FILED  
AT 4:42 P.M.  
O'CLOCK

AUG 05 2020

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

## **COUNTY ORDER 20-012**

### **RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. 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, the State of Texas and Hidalgo County continues to see 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-28 on June 26, 2020; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT of 1975, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez does hereby issue Hidalgo County Order 20-012 effective at **12:01a.m., August 6, 2020** as follows:

#### **SHELTER-AT-HOME:**

All individuals currently living within Hidalgo County, Texas **are ORDERED to SHELTER-AT-HOME in their residence**, unless that individual is out for a medical emergency, for covered essential activities, essential travel, or any other purpose permitted under this Order. 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 (6) from any other person when they are outside their residence.

## **VULNERABLE POPULATION**

ALL persons over the age of 65, are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate physical distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous fourteen (14) days; limit visits from outside of the household members; if leaving the home, to implement physical distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation. People shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by the HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities as appropriate.

## **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 activities, unless that person is out for a medical emergency, to provide covered essential services, essential travel, or any other purpose permitted under this Order.
2. In addition to the mandate to Shelter-At-Home, all persons aged eighteen (18) and over, a curfew 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, essential travel, 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 covered 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 in complying with the CURFEW within the jurisdiction of Hidalgo 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-feet (6) social distancing for both employees and the general public; frequently 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 of the 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.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Outdoor-Events.pdf>

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.) Zoos, aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities;
- 6.) Rodeos and equestrian events;
- 7.) Amusement parks and carnivals.

## **ADDITIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES:**

All Commercial Covered entities operating within Hidalgo County shall remain at fifty-percent (50%) of the total listed occupancy limit. It is highly encouraged and recommended that to the extent possible covered services should be provided by curbside, drive-through, or take-out.

All bars and similar establishments that receive more than fifty-one percent (51%) of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages **MUST** remain closed, but may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Bar areas within restaurant establishments must follow Minimum Standard Health Protocols relevant to operations of the business or entity services and must not permit customers to loiter at the bar or in common areas, only provide services to seated individuals in “bar” areas, discouraging activities that enable close physical contact in the “bar” areas.

Commercial covered entities that are providing goods and services directly to the public, **including but not limited to open-air (flea markets, farmers markets), and retail businesses** must develop and implement “Health and Safety Practices” that require employees and customers to follow additional hygiene measures. The Health and Safety Practices **MUST** require, that all employees and customers to the commercial covered entity’s business premises or other facilities **wear some form of covering over their mouth and nose, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief**, when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or to customers where six feet of separation is not feasible. The Health and Safety Practices required shall not interfere with the operation of functions of CISA and religious services.

Additional Health and Safety Practices required to be developed and implemented by this Order **SHALL** also include additional mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, in compliance with the *Governor’s Strike Force to Open Texas - Open Texas Checklists; Phase III*. Business Resources and Open Texas-Checklist, in addition to the Covered entities enumerated below, additional entities may be found at the following link:

<https://open.texas.gov/>

Commercial Covered entities should follow Minimum Standard Health Protocols relevant to operations of the business or entity services such as using dividers between individuals if six (6) feet physical distancing is not available between employees and/or customers inside the facility, conduct temperature checks or health screenings at entrances. Commercial Covered entities may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Retailers.pdf>



Employers of covered entities should follow Minimum Standard Health Protocols relevant to operations of the business or entity services such as training all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette, not allow employees with known close contact to a positive for COVID-19 to return to work until the end of a fourteen (14) day self-isolation period, and/or conducting temperature checks or health screenings of employees. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Employers.pdf>

**Restaurant covered entities shall limit services to curbside, drive-thru, and takeout in compliance with the SHELTER-AT-HOME CURFEW.** Restaurants should follow Minimum Standard Health Protocols relevant to operations of the business or entity services such as continuing to provide pick-up, drive-thru or delivery services, maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distancing between tables, or four (4) feet physical distancing between tables if the restaurant uses a partition, conducting temperature checks or health screenings at entrances. Restaurant Covered entities may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Restaurants.pdf>

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29, there is no occupancy limit for:

- 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 (marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, document-filing services, or as determined by the local government (including but not limited to public foreclosure sales);
- 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](http://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 violation 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 Executive Orders issued by Governor Abbott.**

**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 19, 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.**

*Richard F. Cortez*

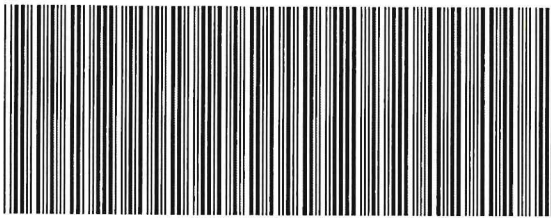
Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

*Arturo Guajardo*

Arturo Guajardo, Hidalgo County Clerk





\*VG-120-2020-3136363\*

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

Document No: 3136363

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Recorded On: August 05, 2020 04:46 PM

Number of Pages: 8

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

Total Recording: \$ 0.00

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

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Receipt No: 20200805000364  
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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

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**Receipt No:** 20200805000364

**Date:** 08/05/2020

**Time:** 04:46PM

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**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	3136363			\$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.**