



OCT 21 2020

ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR. COUNTY CLERK
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
BY Julio E. Garcia DEPUTY

COUNTY ORDER 20-016

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 DURING THE FALL AND WINTER HOLIDAY SEASON

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, Hidalgo County continues to evaluate the circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19, and the ongoing substantial and moderate spread of the disease in the community, with a persistent number of active positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County seeks to continue efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, during the fall and winter holiday season;

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT OF 1975, in response to the continuing Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez does hereby issue Hidalgo County Order 20-016 effective at **12:01 a.m., October 22, 2020**, as follows:

As part of the continuing efforts by Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez and the Commissioners Court of the County of Hidalgo to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency, the intent of this Order is to promote and prescribe Health and Safety Measures, as provided by CDC guidance, for celebrations during the ongoing fall and winter holiday season. During this Declared Emergency, and as authorized by law, the County may amend, revise and/or update this order based on the continued evaluation of circumstances directly related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

HALLOWEEN

In accordance with this Order, and with the support of the Mayors of the municipalities of the County of Hidalgo, **DOOR-TO-DOOR Trick-or-Treating** is hereby **PROHIBITED**. The County of Hidalgo, as well as the municipalities within the jurisdiction of the County may provide alternative activities for their citizens, including but not limited to, Drive-By Trick-or-Treat or Trunk-or-Treat activities, so long as adequate Health and Safety Measures are implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Such measures may prescribe facial coverings, physical distancing, and other measures as described herein.

Many common Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses, but there are several safer alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should **NOT** participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should **NOT** give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Lower risk activities:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Moderate risk activities:

- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than six (6) feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than six (6) feet apart
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than six (6) feet apart
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain physical distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least six (6) feet apart
- If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Traditional Día de los Muertos activities can put individuals at higher risk for exposure to COVID-19. Individuals should consider safer, alternative ways to celebrate, and participate in activities by implementing adequate Health and Safety Measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Such measures may prescribe facial covering, physical distancing, and other measures as described herein.

Any person who may have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, should not participate in in-person Día de los Muertos festivities.

Lower risk activities

- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- Playing music in your home that your deceased loved ones enjoyed
- Making and decorating masks or making an altar for the deceased
- Setting out pillows and blankets in your home for the deceased
- Joining a virtual get-together celebration

Moderate risk activities

- Having a small group outdoor, open-air parade where people are distanced more than six (6) feet apart
- Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones with household members only and keeping more than six (6) feet away from others who may be in the area
- Hosting or attending a small dinner with local family and friends outdoors where people are distanced more than six (6) feet apart

DO NOT USE A COSTUME MASK IN PLACE OF A CLOTH MASK

- Do not use a costume mask (such as for Halloween) as a substitute for a cloth mask or facial covering unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers your mouth and nose and does not leave gaps around your face.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask or facial covering.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time when many families travel long distances to celebrate together. Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. Consider safer, alternative ways to celebrate, and participate in activities by implementing adequate Health and Safety Measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Such measures may prescribe facial covering, physical distancing, and other measures as described herein. If you must travel, be informed of the risks involved.

Lower risk activities

- Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that does not involve contact with others
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the following Monday
- Watching sporting events, parades, and movies from home

Moderate risk activities

- Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain physical distancing
- Attending small outdoor sporting events with safety precautions in place, and in compliance with CDC guidance

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR FALL AND WINTER HOLIDAYS

Many fall and winter celebrations, such as Christmas and New Year's, include large gatherings of families and friends, crowded parties, and travel that may put people at increased risk for COVID-19. In compliance with CDC guidance the following Health and Safety Measures should be implemented in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency.

BEFORE YOU CELEBRATE

Individuals hosting a holiday celebration should follow CDC guidance for hosting gatherings, including but not limited to the following additional considerations for hosting a holiday celebration:

- Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible. If hosting an outdoor event is not possible and you choose to host an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, or fully enclosed indoor spaces.
- Host activities with only people from your local area as much as possible.
- Limit number of attendees as much as possible.
- Provide updated information to your guests about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and put steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, extra masks (do not share or swap with others) and hand sanitizer.

Individuals attending a celebration that someone else is hosting should follow CDC guidance for attending an event or gathering, including but not limited to the following additional considerations for attending an in-person holiday gathering:

- Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities. If participating in an outdoor event is not possible and you choose to attend an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, and fully enclosed indoor spaces.
- Check with the event host, organizer, or event venue for updated information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and if they have steps in place to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, bring extra masks (do not share or swap with others) and hand sanitizer.
- Individuals planning to attend in-person holiday gatherings with people outside of your household, consider strictly avoiding contact with people outside of your household for 14 days before the gathering.

Holiday travel

Traveling increases the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. Any individual who decides to travel should follow the following safety measures during a trip to protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency.

- Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when in public places.
- Avoid close contact by staying at least six (6) feet apart from anyone who is not from your household.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick or is showing symptoms.

DURING THE CELEBRATION

Individuals should follow CDC guidance during a celebration in order to mitigate being exposed to, getting, or spreading COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency:

- Maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet or more from people who are not from the same household.
- Avoid using restroom facilities at high traffic times, such as at the end of an event.
- Avoid busy eating areas, such as restaurants during high volume mealtimes, if you plan to eat out at a restaurant.
- Minimize gestures that promote close contact, such as shaking hands, elbow bumps, or hugs.
- Wear facial covering at all times when around people who are not from the same household.
- Avoid singing, chanting, or shouting, especially when not wearing a mask and within six (6) feet of others.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between uses when feasible.
- Use touchless garbage cans if available. Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water frequently or use hand sanitizer, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Keep safe around food and drinks

- Individuals should wash their hands with soap and water before and after preparing, serving, and eating food. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Instead of potluck-style gatherings, encourage guests to bring food and drinks for themselves and for members of their own household only.
- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen or around the grill.
- Individuals should wear a facial covering while preparing or serving food to others who are not from the same household.
- If serving any food, consider having one person serve all the food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.
- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, plates, utensils and condiments.
- Avoid any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets or buffet-style potlucks, salad bars, and condiments or drink stations.
- If any items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins) are used, wash and disinfect them after an event.

AFTER THE CELEBRATION

Individuals who develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, should immediately contact the host and others that attended the event or celebration and get tested immediately. Contact your health care provider and follow the CDC-recommended steps for what to do if you become sick and follow the public health recommendations for community-related exposure.

If you are waiting for your COVID-19 test results, stay home until you have a result, and follow the CDC's guidance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency.

Additional information may be reviewed on the Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>

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 (6) feet 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 require 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 broadcast or to an audience.

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 requirement, a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent violation 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 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 unless it is modified, rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law, and/or the status of COVID-19 in the County of Hidalgo, Texas. This Order supersedes prior Orders, to the extent that there is a conflict or apparent conflict between the Orders.

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 21st day of OCTOBER, 2020.

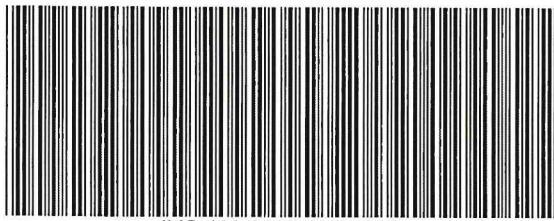
Richard F. Cortez

Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo
Arturo Guajardo, Hidalgo County Clerk





VG-120-2020-3159164

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

Document No: 3159164

Billable Pages: 7

Recorded On: October 21, 2020 11:50 AM

Number of Pages: 8

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

Total Recording: \$ 0.00

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

Any provision herein which restricts the Sale, Rental, or use of the described REAL PROPERTY because of color or race is invalid and unenforceable under federal law.

File Information:

Document No: 3159164
Receipt No: 20201021000166
Recorded On: October 21, 2020 11:50 AM
Deputy Clerk: Elisa Castillo
Station: CH-1-CC-K32

Record and Return To:

Hidalgo County Judges Office
Richard F Cortez
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: 20201021000166
Date: 10/21/2020
Time: 11:50AM
Deputy Clerk: Elisa Castillo
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	3159164			\$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.