



Aurelio Guerra, Jr. Willacy County Judge

576 W. Main Ave, Room 152, Raymondville, Texas 78580

JULY 21, 2020

JOINT WILLACY COUNTY JUDGE AND WILLACY COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY HEALTH CONTROL ORDER DELAYING IN PERSON FACE-TO-FACE
PUBLIC SCHOOL INSTRUCTION UNTIL AFTER SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Willacy County Judge Aurelio Guerra issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which thereafter on March 23, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Willacy County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Willacy County Emergency Management Plan and extended the Declaration of Local Disaster;

WHEREAS, the Willacy County Judge, Willacy County Health Authority, and Willacy County Emergency Management Coordinator and Team, have consulted with the Mayors and School Board Superintendents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Dr. Mario Sanchez as the Willacy County Local Health Authority and pursuant to his duties, has the authority to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the County of Willacy, Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Section 81.082(a) of the of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and Title 25, Section 97.6(h) of the Texas Administrative Code, unless specifically preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Local Health Authority has supervisory authority and control over the administration of communicable disease control measures within its jurisdiction, to include public schools systems, when in his opinion control measures are necessary to protect the public health; and

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WHEREAS, the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19, now demonstrates a substantial and uncontrolled spread of the disease in the community, with a surge in the number of active positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Willacy County and the surrounding counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, effective immediately and continuing until modified, rescinded, or superseded, the Willacy County Judge and the Willacy County Health Authority hereby delay the reopening for all school districts in Willacy County for face-to-face instruction, effective July 21, 2020, and the Willacy County Health Authority hereby imposes the following control measures on all public schools offering instruction to students in any and all grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (12) as follows:

- (1) All Public School Systems in Willacy County offering instruction to students in any and all grades, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (12), shall NOT re-open for on-campus instruction at schools until after September 18, 2020, with face-to-face in-person instruction to resume no sooner than September 21, 2020, unless extended further by the Order of the Willacy County Judge and Willacy County Health Authority. Instruction may be provided through virtual, remote, or distance learning only.
- (2) Administrators, teachers, and operations staff may conduct or facilitate the remote learning process, or other operations, while on-campus provided applicable CDC guidelines including social distancing and facial coverings are followed at all times.
- (3) School personnel are permitted to return to school campuses and facilities to conduct remote instruction and related instructional activities, to provide food distribution, and to perform administrative duties. Such duties and activities are to be conducted consistent with the health guidance and protocols issued by the Texas Education Agency.
- (4) All school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs, exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, shall not take place until school systems resume on-campus instruction.
- (5) By or before the two weeks prior to school systems opening for on-campus instruction, each school system shall develop a plan for re-opening on-campus instruction and activities and make such plan available for parents and the general public.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect, unless it is modified, extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by applicable law; the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 cases in the County of Willacy, Texas; or preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order, or any application of it to any school system, or circumstance related to this Order 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.

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To the greatest extent possible, this Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

ORDERED and EFFECTIVE this 21st day of July 2020.



Aurelio Guerra
Willacy County Judge



Mario Sanchez, M.D.
Willacy County Health Authority

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