

FILED FOR RECORD  
2020 MAR 16 PM 12:00  
DANA DEBEAUVOR  
COUNTY CLERK  
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**ORDER**

**BY**

**THE TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE**

**Whereas**, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued to allow Travis County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Travis County residents; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

**Whereas**, on March 15, 2020, the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommended that organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States;

**Whereas**, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people’s interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people; and

**Whereas**, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order *prohibits* Community Gatherings of 10 persons or more anywhere in Travis County beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on March 17, 2020, and continuing until May 1, 2020, unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

**SECTION 1.** That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes. Further, that this Order rescinds and replaces the prior Order issued on March 14, 2020.

**SECTION 2.** Effective as of 12:00 p.m. (noon) on March 17, 2020, and continuing until May 1, 2020, unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order, the County Judge of the County of Travis, deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT any public or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3, below) anywhere in TRAVIS COUNTY.**

**SECTION 3.** Definitions:

- a. For purposes of this Order, a “Community Gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or space. For clarity, this includes,

but is not limited to, weddings, religious services, parties, funerals, sporting events, social events, conferences, and other gatherings.

- b. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as school classrooms, different floors of a multi-level office, residential building, or hotel, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Order also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection, the County Judge and the Austin/Travis County Health Authority strongly encourage compliance with the attached Recommendations, including social distancing, providing hand sanitizer and tissues, and increasing cleaning of commonly and frequently touched services.
- c. This Order does not apply to the following critical facilities:
  - (i) critical infrastructure, including airport facilities and operations, transit, and transit facilities;
  - (ii) government buildings providing essential services;
  - (iii) schools or institutes of higher learning;
  - (iv) grocery stores and pharmacies; and
  - (v) hospitals and medical offices and facilities.

For purposes of this Order, “grocery stores” includes warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, gas stations, and farmers’ markets, that sell food products and household staples.

In these settings, the County Judge of the County of Travis and the Austin/Travis County Health Authority strongly encourage compliance with the attached Recommendations, including social distancing, providing hand sanitizer and tissues, and increasing cleaning of commonly and frequently touched services.

**SECTION 4:** Our community’s critical infrastructure, which includes communications, emergency services, energy, transportation systems, and water and wastewater systems, are ORDERED to continue operating and encouraged to implement screening precautions to protect employees.

**SECTION 5:** Food establishments are ORDERED to close common dining area open to the public until May 1, 2020, and are encouraged to provide take-away or no-contact delivery food service designed to limit exposure between individuals.

**SECTION 6:** The holder of a wine and beer retailer’s permit or mixed beverage permit (collectively “bars”) is ORDERED to close common bar spaces open to the public and PROHIBITED from allowing consumption on the bar premises until May 1, 2020.

**SECTION 7:** The County Judge SUSPENDS all deadlines imposed by local law, rule, or other regulation until May 1, 2020.

## Austin/Travis County Health Authority Recommendations

### 1) **Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings**

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - 60 years old and older; or
  - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings (of 10 people or more) unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

### 2) **Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Permit sick employees to stay home without providing a doctor's note.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

### 3) **Allowable Events:**

- Cancel or postpone all gatherings.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
  - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available;
  - Frequently cleaning high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails; and
  - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.

### 4) **Critical Infrastructure Facilities**

- Employees who work in and around critical infrastructure should refrain from reporting to work when falling within any of the following criteria:
  - Are sick;
  - Have a fever greater than 100.4°F;
  - Have had contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19; or
  - Have traveled internationally to countries with travel warnings since February 1, 2020.
- If an employee that meets any of the above criteria reports to work, the employer should bar the employee from entering the workplace. An employee that has come in contact with persons exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19 or has traveled to an area the World Health Organization or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers a "Hotspot," is expected to follow the initial self-quarantine recommendations.
- Employers should require employees (either those exhibiting symptoms or all employees) undergo non-invasive temperature readings prior to entering a critical infrastructure facility. Employees refusing to submit to a temperature reading and

those with a temperature greater than 100.4° F should be turned away and barred entry into the critical infrastructure facility.

- Supervisors at critical infrastructure facilities should be authorized to direct employees to return home if the employee is exhibiting symptoms and presenting a threat of infecting other employees at the critical infrastructure facility. Human Resources departments at critical infrastructure facilities are encouraged to create alternate work plans to help employees remain productive while keeping the workforce safe and healthy.

#### **5) Government Buildings Providing Essential Services**

- All nonessential employees should use telecommuting options.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another.
- Provide hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues.
- Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails.

#### **6) Schools: Safety First**

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Frequent re-education of students and staff regarding personal hygiene measures (handwashing, etc.) and ensuring that appropriate signs are posted.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential, even if the events would otherwise comply with the Order.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures and families should prepare.

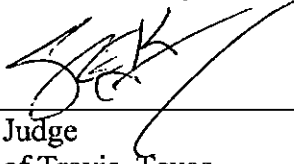
#### **7) Grocery Stores and Pharmacies**

- Increase the use and capability of drive-thru, curbside, or delivery services.
- Limit or restrict the number of customers permitted in a store at one time.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length of one another.
- Provide hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues.
- Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails.

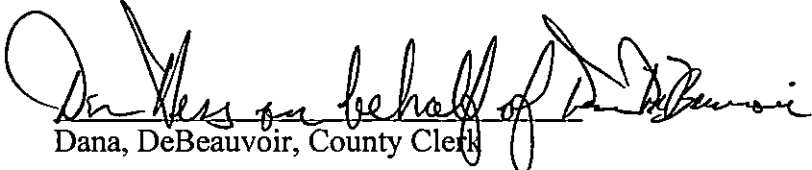
**SECTION 8:** That the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office, and other peace officers, are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

**SECTION 9:** The Austin Public Health Department and the Travis County Clerk will post this Order on its website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. 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

**ORDERED** this the 17th day of March, 2020, in the County of Travis, Texas.

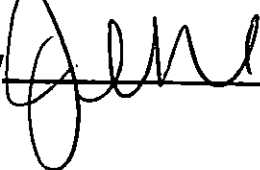
  
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County Judge  
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Dana, DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

**Dana DeBeauvoir**

**Dana DeBeauvoir  
County Clerk, Travis County, Texas**

By  Deputy

