

## HEALTH AUTHORITY ORDER

TO: **FACILITY OWNER OR FACILITY DIRECTOR**

FROM: Mark E. Escott, MD, MPH, Interim Health Authority, City of Austin/Travis County

DATE: **DATE**

Re: Orders of Control Measures for Vulnerable Populations at Long-Term Care Facilities and/or Nursing Homes

Pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code §§ 81.082 and 81.084, I, the Medical Director and Health Authority for Austin Public Health, hereby issue this order imposing the below specified control measures on **(name and address of property)**, a Long-Term Care Facility and/or Nursing Home (“Facility”).

Based on information and belief, you are the administrator of **(name and address of property)**. This facility serves elderly individuals or individuals with underlying health conditions that make them more susceptible to infection or respiratory disease.

In addition to the guidance provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission COVID-19 Response for Long Term Care Facilities (April 7, 2020). You are required to put the following control measures in place or ensure that they are put in place:

- “Help Prevent Disease” signage provided by Austin Public Health must be displayed prominently in the facility (these graphic files may be found at: [www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19));
- Hand sanitizer must be available and supplied to employees, patients, visitors, and volunteers;

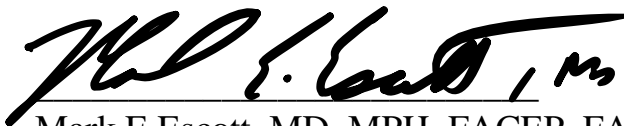
- The facility must symptom and temperature check all employees, patients, visitors, and volunteers prior to entry to the facility (except for 9-1-1 responders);
- The facility must screen each resident at least once each shift for COVID-19 symptoms, including: cough, fever, and shortness of breath.
- Only visitors providing critical assistance should be permitted entry into to the facility. Care providers should utilize telehealth whenever possible.
- The facility may not admit any individual to the facility with a temperature of 99.6 °F or above;
- Any unexplained febrile illness ( $\geq 99.6$  °F) of facility employees, patients, visitors, or volunteers must be reported to Austin Public Health Epidemiologist On Call at (512) 972-5555 as soon as possible.
- All individuals entering the facility must wear at, a minimum, surgical face masks or cloth face coverings, if surgical masks are not available, for the duration of their time within the facility, except while eating or while alone in an enclosed office.
- All employees and contractors with responsibilities that require contact with residents within 6 feet, should utilize CDC recommended Personal Protective Equipment for COVID-19. This PPE should be utilized for all patient encounters, regardless of the COVID-19 status.
- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, all patients, staff, and next of kin must be notified that a positive case exists in the facility.
- In the event of a cluster at your facility involving two or more patients, the facility will be restricted from receiving any new patients into the facility or any returning patients to the facility until the facility has been cleared by Austin Public Health.
- In the event of a cluster at your facility of two or more staff and/or patients, the facility will be required to make available for testing, if requested, all clinical staff, non-clinical staff, and contractors.
- In the event of a cluster at your facility, a “Strike Team” of additional

personnel and equipment may be deployed to supplement staffing at your facility until the facility outbreak is controlled as determined by Austin Public Health.

I believe this order is an appropriate and necessary control measure to protect the public health based on the higher risk for severe infection or respiratory disease posed by the COVID-19 virus for elderly individuals and those individuals with underlying health conditions.

If you have any questions, information, or concerns, or if you are not the owner, person in control, or registered agent for the (name and address of property), please contact Austin Public Health as soon as possible at (512) 972-5555.

This order is issued under my authority as Medical Director for Austin Public Health and Health Authority for the City of Austin and Travis County, on this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2020.



Mark E Escott, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAEMS

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