

GATHERINGS OF INDIVIDUALS

ORDER



BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY

County Judge Order 2020-13; Relating to the Declaration regarding COVID-19

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by the Travis County Judge to allow the County of Travis ("County" or "Travis County"), Texas 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 Greg 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 virus that causes COVID-19 is contagious and spreads through person-toperson contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, on June 3, 2020, Governor Abbott issued the most recent Executive Order GA-26 ("Governor's Order") related to the expansion and reopening of services as part of a strategic plan to "Open Texas," with reduced occupancy limits and continuing recommended health protocols and social distancing measures to attempt to mitigate increased transfer of COVID-19 associated with the expanding commercial and social interactions; and

Whereas, as of June 24, 2020, Travis County has experienced 6,596 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 236 hospitalizations (94 patients in ICU and 114 deaths) as a result of the disease, while the number of new cases confirmed daily has not shown a downward trajectory over any fourteen-day period since the Declaration of Local Disaster was issued on March 6th and is expected by the Health Authority to continue rising with the administration of additional testing; and

Whereas, the Austin/Travis County area is now experiencing a doubling of the infection rate every 17.9 days; and

Whereas, Dr. Mark Escott, the interim health authority for Austin/Travis County, finds that the area still needs to increase testing and contact tracing capabilities, to maintain social distancing and hygiene, and to wear face coverings to provide for the safety of the public while businesses are reopening and when individuals are outside their household; and

Whereas, the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the Travis County Community and rates of infection are increasing at an alarming exponential rate and the number of people ending up in the hospital, ICU, or on ventilators is also dramatically rising despite efforts by local authorities to control the spread;

Whereas, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be taken to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate a response to the public health threat;

Whereas, pursuant to Government Code section 418.108(g), a County Judge is authorized to control ingress and egress from a local disaster area, and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that disaster area; and

Whereas, on June 17, Governor Abbott publicly announced that according to his plans and orders, "local governments can require stores and business to require masks." Governor Abbott further articulated that every county is authorized "to impose requirement on business operations...just like [businesses] can require people to wear shoes and shirts."

Whereas, the Governor's Order GA-26, as amended by his Proclamation issued on June 23, 2020, allows a county judge, in consultation with the local public health authority, to impose additional restrictions on outdoor gatherings estimated to be in excess of 100 people.

Whereas, effective June 16, 2020, the Travis County Judge issued Prevention Guidelines and Order (Order 2020-11) to continue the recommendations and guidance communicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and Austin/Travis County Health Authority to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing in order to help to reduce and eventually eliminate COVID-19 infection in our community while also advancing economic recovery; and on June 18, 2020, supplemented these Prevention Guidelines and issued Order 2020-12 requiring all commercial entities in Travis County that provide goods or services directly to the public to develop and implement a Health and Safety Policy related to COVID-19 which, at a minimum, shall require that all employees and visitors to the commercial entity's business premises or other facilities wear face coverings.

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

Effective as of 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 26, 2020 ("Effective Date"), and continuing through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2020 unless extended, modified or terminated early by Travis County Judge Samuel Biscoe or as otherwise indicated below:

- 1. <u>Public Health Emergency</u>. That this Order shall continue the local disaster declaration and public health emergency for Travis County for the period specified herein and shall incorporate and adopt the most recent executive order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on June 3, 2020, and any subsequent orders or proclamations by the Governor relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.
- 2. Any outdoor gatherings that exceed 100 people are PROHIBITED except as permitted by the Governor's Order GA-26.

- 3. Individuals shall not socialize in groups of more than 10 people, unless individuals are members of the same household or residence and except to the extent permitted by the Governor's Orders. Within any group of ten (10) people or less, individuals should, to the extent possible, wear face coverings and minimize in-person contact with others not in the individual's household.
- 4. Pursuant to the Governor's Order GA-26, there is no occupancy limit for the following:
 - a. any services listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version3. 1 or any subsequent version;
 - b. religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship;
 - c. local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to licensing (including marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government;
 - 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 youths; and
 - f. recreational sports programs for youths and adults;
- 5. Pursuant to the Governor's Order GA-26, the outdoor gathering ban in section 2 of this Order does not apply to the following outdoor areas, events, or establishments, except that the following outdoor areas or outdoor venues shall operate at no more than 50 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner:
 - a. professional, collegiate, or similar sporting events;
 - b. swimming pools;
 - c. water parks;
 - d. museums and libraries;
 - e. zoos, aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities; and
 - f. rodeos and equestrian events;
- 6. Pursuant to the Governor's Order GA-26, the outdoor gathering ban in section 2 of this Order does not apply to amusement parks and carnival, except that amusement parks and carnivals shall operate at no more than 50 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner;
- 7. <u>Prior Orders</u>. This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference all declarations, findings, and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order. This Order supplements any prior order issued by the Travis County Judge.
- 8. The Austin Public Health Department and the Travis County Clerk will post this Order on their websites. 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 of the remainder of this Order and its application.
- 9. Savings Clause. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.
- 10. <u>Enforcement</u>. 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 Section 2 of this order may be punishable through criminal or civil enforcement and may result in a fine not to exceed \$1,000. A criminal violation of Section 2 of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine only.
- 11. This Order incorporates by reference the following:
 - a. **Exhibit A**: List of Cities and Municipalities within Travis County Jurisdiction Covered by this Order

ORDERED this the 25th day of June, 2020, in the County of Travis, Texas.

Samuel T. Buscoa
County Judge

County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 25th day of June, 2020.

Dana, DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

Exhibit A: List of Cities and Municipalities within Travis County Jurisdiction covered by the Order

- City of Austin
- City of Bee Cave
- City of Cedar Park
- City of Creedmoor
- City of Elgin
- City of Jonestown
- City of Lago Vista
- City of Lakeway
- City of Leander
- City of Manor
- City of Mustang Ridge
- City of Pflugerville
- City of Rollingwood
- City of Round Rock
- City of Sunset Valley
- City of West Lake Hills
- Village of Briarcliff
- Village of Point Venture
- Village of San Leanna
- Village of The Hills
- Village of Volente
- Village of Webberville



FILED AND RECORDED OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

Dana De Seauvoir

Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk Travis County, Texas

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Jun 25, 2020 03:08 PM

Fee: \$0.00

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TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TX 78714-9325 (512) 854-9188

ISSUED TO: ORDER- GATHERING OF INDIVIDUALS _____ RECEIPT # 83725 DATE 06/25/2020 03:08:56 PM -----DOCUMENT # PGS FEE 6 2020106978 46.00 Total Amount Due ORDER . 00 NO PAYMENT COUNTY DEPARTMENTS *********** Total Amount Paid

THANK YOU, HAVE A NICE DAY
INDEXES AVAILABLE
WWW.TRAVISCOUNTYCLERK.ORG
Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk
Deputy; WELLINB