

ORDINANCE NO. _____

1 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH AUTHORITY TO ADOPT
2 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS FROM COVID-
3 19; CREATING AN OFFENSE AND PENALTY; AND DECLARING
4 EMERGENCY.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

6 PART 1. FINDINGS. The City Council finds:

- 7 (1) Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that spreads mainly between people
8 who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through
9 respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;
10 and it also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching
11 a surface that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose,
12 or possibly their eyes; and
- 13 (2) A significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack
14 symptoms, which means an infected person can transmit the virus to
15 others before showing any symptoms; and
- 16 (3) Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code states that a home-
17 rule municipality may adopt rules to protect the health of individuals in
18 the municipality; and
- 19 (4) Section 121.003 of the Texas Health and Safety Code states that a home-
20 rule municipality may enforce any law reasonably necessary to protect
21 the public health; and
- 22 (5) The Austin City Charter, Article I, Section 3 (*General Powers*)
23 establishes the City as a home-rule municipality.

24 PART 2. DEFINITIONS.

- 25 (1) A term defined in City Code Section 1-1-2 (*General Definitions*) has the
26 same meaning in this ordinance.
- 27 (2) HEALTH AUTHORITY RULE means an administrative rule adopted in
28 accordance with Part 3 of this ordinance.

29 PART 3. PROTECTIONS FOR THE HEALTH OF PERSONS.

30 (A) To protect the health of individuals within the City, the health authority
31 may adopt administrative rules reasonably necessary to protect the health
32 of persons within the City, including mitigating and reducing the
33 transmission of COVID-19.

34 (B) The health authority must adopt the administrative rules described in this
35 ordinance in a manner that complies with City Code Chapter 1-2
36 (*Adoption of Rules*) except for the following sections:

37 (1) Section 1-2-10 (*Appeal of Adopted Rule to City Manager*);

38 (2) Section 1-2-11 (*Notice of Appeal of an Adopted Rule*);

39 (3) Section 1-2-12 (*Suspension of Appealed Rule*);

40 (4) Section 1-2-13 (*Decision on Appeal of an Adopted Rule Notice*);

41 (5) Section 1-2-14 (*Failure to Decide an Appeal*);

42 (6) Section 1-2-15 (*Notice of Decision on Appeal of an Adopted Rule*);
43 and

44 (7) Section 1-2-16 (*Reconsideration of an Appeal*).

45 (C) The City Manager may designate one or more city departments to assist
46 the health authority with administering, implementing, and enforcing this
47 ordinance.

48 **PART 4. OFFENSE AND PENALTY.**

49 (A) A person who knowingly violates a health authority rule commits an
50 offense.

51 (B) Each day that a violation occurs is a separate offense.

52 (C) Each offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

53 **PART 5.** This ordinance expires on _____, 2020.

54 **PART 6.** The COVID-19 pandemic is the subject of disaster declarations and
55 orders because it jeopardizes the public health and safety of individuals within
56 the City. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect the day

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following publication for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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_____, 2020

Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk