



**STAY HOME ORDER
CONSISTENT WITH AND GUIDANCE BEYOND
GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS
BY**

STAYS IN FILE

THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY

County Judge Order 2020-8, Relating to the Declaration regarding COVID-19

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt 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-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and

Whereas, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for 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, and

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, President Donald 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, on March 20, 2020 and on March 21, 2020, due to the substantial risks to the public, the County Judge issued orders deeming it in the public interest to prohibit anywhere in Travis County, social gatherings of more than 10 people, to prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people for other than social purposes, unless social distancing could be maintained and controlled and to identify critical infrastructure, and

Whereas, on March 24, 2020, based in part on credible modeling by University of Texas at Austin that further restriction of movement of persons is necessary to reduce the substantial risk of harm to the public, the County Judge issued Order 2020-5, more commonly known as the "Stay Home - Work Safe Order," requiring all individuals in Travis County to stay home or in their place of residence except to perform certain essential activities, or to perform work in or obtain service from an Essential Business, Essential Government Service, or in Critical Infrastructure, and

Whereas, on April 14, 2020, in order to continue slowing the rate and number of people infected with COVID-19, the County issued "Stay Home – Work Safe" Order 2020-7, further restricting the movement of persons is necessary to reduce the substantial risk of harm to the public and requiring individuals to stay at home or their place of residence except to perform

certain essential activities, or to perform work in or obtain service from an Essential Business, Essential Government Service, or in Critical Infrastructure and to practice Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements, and

Whereas, on April 17, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-16 (“Governor’s Order GA-16”) relating to the continuation of social distancing measures while also allowing greater retail pick-up and delivery activities (“Retail-To-Go”) as an initial step to increasing commercial and social interactions, and

Whereas, on April 17, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-17 (“Governor’s Order GA-17”) creating the “Governor’s Strike Force to Open Texas” to study and make recommendations on restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the State, and

Whereas, on April 27, 2020 and May 5, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Orders GA-18 and GA-21 (“**Governor’s Orders**” or “GA-18” or “GA-21” respectively) relating to the continuation of social distancing measures while also expanding the list of services that could reopen, with reduced occupancy limits, as an additional increase in commercial and social interactions, and allowing local jurisdictions to enforce the Executive Order as well as adopt local restrictions consistent with the Governor’s Orders, and

Whereas, on April 27, 2020 and May 5, 2020, Governor Abbott provided recommended health protocols for those services allowed to reopen under the Governor’s Orders to attempt to mitigate increased transfer of COVID-19 associated with the resulting commercial and social interactions, and

Whereas, on April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-19 (“Governor’s Order GA-19”) relating to hospital capacity and mandating that hospitals licensed by the State reserve at least 15 percent of their capacity for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, and

Whereas, on April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-20 (“Governor’s Order GA-20”) relating to expanding travel without restrictions as part of the statewide plan to increase commercial and social interactions and

Whereas, as of May 7th, Travis County has experienced 1,946 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 57 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, based on additional modeling data from the University of Texas regarding various reopening scenarios related to COVID-19, it may take three to six weeks of data to provide sufficient information to monitor and analyze the success of any reopening policies, 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

Whereas, relaxing stay-at-home measures too quickly and without adequate testing and tracing could result in an overwhelming surge of hospitalizations and deaths, and

Whereas, the Governor has issued Executive Orders (Governor's Orders) related to the expansion and reopening of services as part of a strategic plan to "Open Texas," and will continue to issue Executive Orders pursuant to his plan to "Open Texas," and all such Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 disaster that have been or will be issued by the Governor are hereby incorporated by reference to this Order, and

Whereas, to avoid a surge in COVID-19 infections that overwhelm our hospitals and to best ensure that expanding the list of services allowed to reopen does not result in substantial risk of harm to the public, all individuals anywhere in the County of Travis are required to continue to stay at home or their place of residence except as allowed by this Order, and

Whereas, because Travis County residents seek quality information and guidance to find the balance between personal and community health and economic recovery, Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt issues this Order consistent with the Governor's Orders and continues the recommendations and guidance in place that will help to reduce and eventually eliminate COVID-19 infection in our community while also advancing economic recovery

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE THE GOVERNOR'S ORDERS AND FIND AND ORDER, CONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNOR'S ORDERS, THAT

SECTION 1 Stay at Home or Place of Residence All individuals currently living within Travis County, including but not limited to all of the cities and municipalities within the boundaries of Travis County and specifically listed in **Exhibit A**, are ORDERED to stay at home or at their place of residence in order to minimize social gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household and follow Social Distancing and Hygiene practices and the Face Covering Recommendations as defined in Section 2 and **Exhibits B and C**, unless excepted by this Order. Consistent with the Governor's Order, and subject to the requirements of this Order, all persons may leave their residences only for purposes of providing or obtaining essential services or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities as outlined in the Governor's Orders. The County Judge deems it is in the public interest to issue this Order, **effective as of 11 59 a m on May 8, 2020, and continuing until 11 59 p m on June 15, 2020**, unless terminated or modified by a subsequent order. While violation of this Order is a criminal offense, except as otherwise provided herein, enforcement of this Order is substantially reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public health and safety under the novel threat of COVID-19. If there is not widespread compliance with this Order, Travis County will increase enforcement efforts to the extent allowed by law.

SECTION 2 Recommendations for Businesses and Individuals to continue slowing the spread and avoid a surge in COVID-19 infections To remain consistent with the Governor’s Orders, the Travis County Judge issues this Order, incorporating the Governor’s Order GA-21 and any subsequent executive orders, with the awareness that COVID-19 remains a public health emergency While the Governor’s orders allow certain businesses to reopen, medical and scientific experts agree that doing so presents a risk to public health and likelihood of increased community spread of COVID-19 For these reasons, the County Judge and the Austin-Travis County Health Authority make the following recommendations to businesses to help them make informed decisions about reopening We strongly recommend that the residents, businesses, and community of Travis County continue following the guidance and health protocols issued by the Austin-Travis County Health Authority and CDC

- a Social Distancing and Hygiene** All persons should practice Social Distancing and Hygiene as defined below, except when in the presence of only members of one’s own household or residence, or when otherwise exempted by this Order Parents and Guardians of children under 10 are responsible for maintaining social distance between child members of their household and others’ households For purposes of this Order, and as outlined in the Guidelines from the CDC and Austin/Travis County Health Authority, Social Distancing and Hygiene include maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not into hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands

- b Face Covering** Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person’s nose and mouth is necessary to help slow the spread of the virus When leaving one’s residence, all persons over the age of ten (10) should wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, except when
 - 1 Alone in a separate single space, whether indoor or outdoor,
 - 2 In the presence only of other members of one’s household or residence whether inside or outside the residence,
 - 3 When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk,
 - 4 When engaged in Outdoor Activity as defined by Section 7(b)(111) below, or
 - 5 For purposes of eating and drinking

Parents and Guardians of children under ten (10) years of age are responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence
All non-residents in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should wear a fabric face covering, except as otherwise required by an order

issued by the Health Authority. In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases should follow requirements of **Exhibit B**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk. See **Exhibit C** for further guidance on Face Covering Recommendations.

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

- c Opening Central Texas for Business Task Force Recommendations** At the request of Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce convened an Opening Central Texas for Business Task Force. Initial recommendations from the Task Force are attached to this Order as **Exhibit D**.

SECTION 3 Restricted Gatherings In order to minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact as set forth in the Governor's Orders, all indoor or outdoor public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or residence continue to be prohibited, except for the limited purposes of providing or obtaining essential services and reopened services or engaging in daily activities as outlined in Governor's Order, GA-21, and following the Social Distancing and Hygiene practices and Face Covering Recommendations set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and **Exhibits B** and **C**. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's residence. Nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities are to prohibit non-critical assistance visitors or providers from accessing their facilities, as determined through the guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and set forth in the Governor's Report to Open Texas at <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>. All non-residents in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should wear a fabric face covering as provided for in Section 3 and **Exhibit C**. In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases should follow the recommendations of **Exhibit C**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk.

SECTION 4 Definitions and Exemptions For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to provide or obtain Essential Services and Reopened Services or engage in essential daily activities as defined in the Governor's Order, GA-21, as well as the exemptions listed in the subsections below. In doing so, all individuals must take necessary precautions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and minimize in-person contact with people who are not of the same household. In providing or accessing these exempted services and activities, people and businesses should comply with Social Distancing and Hygiene practices and the Face Covering Recommendations as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and **Exhibits B** and **C**. Residential and commercial construction should comply with the Construction Guidance issued by Travis County and attached as **Exhibit E**.

- a Individuals experiencing homelessness** are strongly urged to obtain shelter and are required to make use of such shelter as is made available and as directed by the Public Health Director, Public Health Department, and Health Authority. Governmental and other entities are strongly urged to further make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation. Otherwise, individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Order except that, to the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they should, to the greatest extent feasible, comply with Social Distancing and Hygiene practices and Face Covering Recommendations as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and **Exhibits B and C**.
- b Childcare Facilities** Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted and to provide services for children needing protective services. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
- 1 Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of no more than 10 people (“stable” means that the same 10 or fewer children and caregivers are in the same group each day)
 - 2 Children shall not change from one group to another
 - 3 If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other
 - 4 Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children
- c Residences** For purposes of this Order, a residence is a home, dwelling, household, hotel, motel, shared rental unit, and similar facilities.

SECTION 5 The County Judge SUSPENDS all deadlines imposed by local law, rule, or other regulation until June 15, 2020.

SECTION 6 Prior Orders 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 rescinds and replaces any prior Order.

SECTION 7 Enforcement Enforcement of this Order is primarily reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public health and safety under the novel threat of COVID-19. The County Judge strongly recommends that the public enforce this order by patronizing those businesses that proactively and effectively prioritize public health, public safety, and sanitation by requiring all recommended social distancing, hygiene, and face covering practices described in this Order.

The Travis County Sheriff’s Office, the Travis County Fire Marshal’s Office, and other peace officers are hereby authorized to use their discretion in enforcing this Order. A violation of this Order may be punishable through criminal or civil enforcement except as otherwise provided herein. A criminal violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed

\$1,000 A criminal violation of this Order may be enforced by issuing a citation to the person violating the Order, which contains written notice of the name and address of the person charged, and the offense charged **The foregoing notwithstanding, no criminal penalty will be imposed for failure to wear a face covering**

SECTION 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

SECTION 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

SECTION 10 This Order incorporates by reference the following

Exhibit A List of Cities and Municipalities within Travis County Jurisdiction Covered by this Order

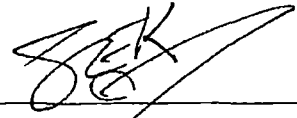
Exhibit B Recommendations and Requirements by the Austin Travis/ County Health Authority

Exhibit C Face Covering Recommendations

Exhibit D Opening Central Texas for Business Task Force Recommendations

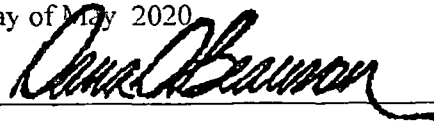
Exhibit E Construction Guidance

ORDERED this the 8th day of May, 2020, in the County of Travis, Texas



County Judge
County of Travis Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 8th day of May 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

Exhibit B

Austin/Travis County Health Authority Requirements and Recommendations for Individuals, Families, and Businesses

I Individuals

A COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and Untested Individuals with cough and/or fever shall

i Not leave their residence without a mask or fabric face covering to prevent the spread to others

ii Be permitted to do the following while wearing a mask or fabric face covering

a Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, they shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that they have tested positive for COVID-19, or been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever

b Walk or exercise alone in the immediate vicinity of their residence

iii Not leave Travis County without prior notification to Austin Public Health at APH.Preparedness@austintexas.gov

iv Practice Social Distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines

v Notify Austin Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom)

vi Notify Austin Public Health if a member of their household is over the age of 65 and/or if they have underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC of increasing the risk of complications from COVID-19

vii Remain in home quarantine for at least 7 days following the onset of their illness and at least three days (72 hours) after the conclusion of their illness (resolution of fever without medications and improvement in cough and shortness of breath), whichever is longer

B Household Members of COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, or Untested Individuals with cough and/or fever shall

i Not leave the residence without a mask or fabric face covering to prevent the spread to others

ii Be permitted to do the following while wearing a mask or fabric face covering

a Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, they shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that they have been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever

b Walk or exercise alone in the immediate vicinity of their residence

iii Not leave Travis County without prior notification to Austin Public Health at APH.Preparedness@austintexas.gov

iv Practice social distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines

v Notify Austin Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom)

vi Notify Austin Public Health or your Primary Care Provider if they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as defined by the CDC

vii Remain in home quarantine for at least 14 days following the last exposure to individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

C Individuals Employed in Essential Services or Reopened Services should refrain from reporting to work when falling within any of the following criteria

i Has signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, or change in smell or taste,

ii Has a fever greater than 99.6°F,

iii In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and did not have the appropriate personal protective equipment designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with a respiratory illness, or

iv Has traveled to an area the World Health Organization or CDC considers a “Hotspot ”

If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, or is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, and a member of the household is an employee of an Essential Service

or Reopened Service, an exception may be made by Austin Public Health allowing that member of the household to voluntarily return to work after finding the risk of reduced essential services is greater than the risk of infection

D Vulnerable Populations

- i Vulnerable populations include people who
 - a Are 65 years old and older, or
 - b Have certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and weakened immune systems
- ii Vulnerable Individuals shall
 - a Avoid group gatherings unless it is essential,
 - b Avoid people who are sick,
 - c Wear a mask or fabric face covering at all times when in public

E Individual Gatherings

- i All non-essential indoor or outdoor gatherings of any number of people shall be cancelled or postponed, in order to minimize social gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household
- ii Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick
- iii For household gatherings
 - a Have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available,
 - b Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails, and
 - c Find ways to create physical space (minimum of six (6) feet distance between people) to minimize close contact as much as possible

F Schools and Daycare To the extent that schools and daycare are open under current orders

- i Do not have your child attend school or daycare if sick

ii If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school and daycare attendance

iii Frequently re-educate students and staff regarding Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements and ensure that appropriate signs are posted

iv Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning

II Non-essential Business shall cease to the extent that it is not included in the definition of Reopened Services and Essential Services as defined by the Governor's Orders, GA-21 or otherwise exempted by this Order

III Essential Services and Reopened Services as defined in the Governor's Orders, GA-21, shall comply with the following

A Employers include public and private employers located and operating in and around Essential Services and Reopened Services To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, employers shall only adhere to the recommendations described in this Order to determine risk of COVID-19 Employers should contact their own human resources advisors and shall not make determinations of risk based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, familial status, disability, marital status, student status, creed, or national origin To the extent possible, employers should maintain confidentiality of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

B Employers shall only allow persons in and around Essential Services and Reopened Services that are (1) essential employees not subject to any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit, (2) customers or members of the public to the extent feasible while complying with Social Distancing practices and Face Covering Recommendations of Sections 2 (a) and (b) of this Order, and (3) persons with legal authority to enter such as law enforcement

C Prior to allowing employees into its facility, employers shall ask all employees if they meet any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit, and shall direct employees to return home or other appropriate shelter and services if the employee is exhibiting symptoms and presenting a threat of infecting others

D Employers shall immediately separate an employee who becomes sick or demonstrates a temperature greater than 99.6°F while at work from other employees and send that employee home or to other appropriate shelter and services

E Human resources departments shall create alternate work plans to help employees remain productive while keeping the workforce safe and healthy

F Employers are strongly encouraged to require employees (either those exhibiting symptoms or all employees) to undergo a COVID-19 symptom check and non-invasive temperature readings prior to entering a worksite, however, **employers are not**

mandated to take the temperature of employees prior to entrance to its worksite

If the employer does take employees' temperatures and/or has first-hand knowledge that the employee's temperature exceeds 99.6°F, then the employer shall prohibit the employee from entering the facility or property

G Employers shall create and implement an infectious disease response plan

H Where appropriate employers shall

- i Suspend nonessential employee travel,
- ii Prohibit employees working within six (6) feet of one another unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services,
- iii Minimize or cancel in-person meetings and conferences including canceling, postponing or moving to on-line formats for all indoor or outdoor gatherings of any number of people
- iv Require employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits
- v Permit sick employees to stay home without providing a doctor's note
- vi Utilize telecommuting options to minimize person-to-person interaction
- vii Alter, stagger or otherwise schedule or separate employees or teams of employees so not all employees are present at one time but are present at alternative days and times, unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services
- viii Limit or restrict the number of customers or visitors permitted in a workplace at one time
- ix Ensure that individuals (employees and clients) queuing inside and outside of the business or workplace can maintain six (6) feet of separation
- x Designate special separate shopping times for high-risk clients as designated by the CDC
- xi Increase the use and capability of on-line, drive-thru, curbside, or delivery services
- xii Provide hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues
- xiii Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails with CDC recommended surface cleaners for COVID-19

xiv Comply with Face Covering Recommendations in Section 2(b) and **Exhibit C** of this Order

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Exhibit C

Face Covering Recommendations

A significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms. Because an infected person can transmit the virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth when outside their home or residence is necessary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is consistent with the findings of the CDC and Austin-Travis County Health Authority.

Unless you already have your own personal used masks that cannot be donated, the fabric face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders. Staying home is the best way to help reduce the spread of the virus, but if an individual must leave their place of residence, wearing a fabric face covering should be used as outlined in this Exhibit and this Order. **Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.**

No criminal penalty will be imposed for failure to wear a face covering.

The public in general and Essential Services' and Reopened Services' employers and employees should adhere to the following:

- a All persons over the age of ten (10) should wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when
 - 1 entering or inside any building open to the public,
 - 2 using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares,
 - 3 pumping gas, and
 - 4 outside and six feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained between the person and individuals outside of their household.

- b This section shall not apply to persons that are
 - 1 riding in a personal vehicle,
 - 2 that are alone in a separate single space,
 - 3 are in the presence only of other members of their household or residence,

4 when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance, or

5 for purposes of eating and drinking

Parents and Guardians of children under ten (10) shall be responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence

- c All non-residents in nursing homes, assisted living, and long-term care facilities should wear a fabric face covering as provided for in this Exhibit, and set forth in Section 2(b) of the Order (Face Coverings), except as otherwise required by an order issued by the Health Authority. In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of **Exhibit B**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk
- d All COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and untested individuals with cough and/or fever, and household members of same category of individuals shall not leave their residence without a mask or cloth face covering to prevent the spread to others
- e All individuals working for a business defined as an Essential Service or Reopened Service in the Governor's Orders, GA-21 should wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever in public and whenever performing job duties in the presence of others
- f Unless you already have your own personal used masks that cannot be donated, medical grade (N95) and surgical masks should be reserved and used only by medical professionals and first responders

Examples of how to make cloth face coverings can be found online including [guidance from the CDC](#) and [guidance from Austin/ Travis County Health Authority](#)

- g The fabric face covering should-
 - 1 fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - 2 be secured with ties or ear loops
 - 3 include multiple layers of fabric
 - 4 allow for breathing without restriction, and
 - 5 be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- h Employers are strongly encouraged to allow employees to practice Face Covering Recommendations as set forth in Section 2(b) of this Order and Exhibit

i Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals shall maintain six feet of social distancing whenever possible

j Individuals should avoid touching their face and should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer

k For further information, individuals can access information at <https://traviscountytx.gov/news/2020/1945-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information> and www.AustinTexas.gov/COVID19

Exhibit D

Opening Central Texas for Business Task Force

Initial recommendations

May 5, 2020



AUSTIN CHAMBER

May 5 2020

The Honorable Sarah Eckhardt
County Judge Travis County

The Honorable Steve Adler
Mayor, City of Austin

Judge Eckhardt and Mayor Adler,

Thank you for giving the Chamber the opportunity to create a working task force to recommend next steps as we look toward reopening the Central Texas economy. Your leadership in acknowledging that this adaptive landscape requires public and private sectors working together will make all the difference in keeping Central Texans safe and healthy.

Since your initial request, we have established a task force that has more than 125 members representing a wide range of interests, including small and large businesses in multiple industry sectors, business membership organizations, and community groups that support the needs of business such as transportation, public health, and safety. The priorities of this task force are to 1) provide feedback on how we open our economy and to initialize future policy, 2) monitor and evaluate the reopening, and 3) inform the program design for city and county economic recovery funds.

This is a complex situation, and policies must adapt to account for the evolving landscape in this unprecedented time. As conditions change, the task force is committed to providing you with real-time industry-specific input, as well as general recommendations and feedback, that will help inform and guide your policymaking.

It is our goal to be transparent in our efforts and to lead with collaboration, innovation, and heart. With that in mind, the following document is the first work product of the task force and represents our best efforts to strike a balance between public health and reopening the economy.

On behalf of the entire task force, thank you for the opportunity to contribute these recommendations.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Huffman".

Laura Huffman
President & CEO
Austin Chamber of Commerce

Opening Central Texas for Business Task Force

Purpose

The task force is charged with creating a set of policy recommendations, that will rely on appropriate health metrics to reopen Central Texas in a safe healthy and productive way. This is a highly iterative effort focusing on the following interrelated purposes:

1. Providing feedback to on how we open our economy and to initialize future policy
2. Monitoring and evaluating how the work is going
3. Inform the program design for city and county economic recovery funds

Formation

- Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt requested the Austin Chamber of Commerce to convene a business task force consistent with the stated purpose above
- The Austin Chamber invited business membership organizations (chambers of commerce trade associations) throughout Central Texas as well as business owners and operators
- Additionally, the task force includes representatives from community organizations focusing on the needs and concerns of individuals such as social equity, workforce development, labor, childcare, education, and mental/behavioral health among others
- Task force members participated in advisory or working groups to evaluate current challenges and provide recommendations for action by public, private, and nonprofit sectors
- The threat of the COVID-19 pandemic will not end soon nor shall the work of the task force. New task force members will be welcomed to provide needed perspective on the opportunities and challenges related to the gradual reopening and stabilization of the Central Texas economy

Guiding principles

- It is critical to recognize that COVID-19 has created a complex situation that touches every aspect of our region. No one person or organization can succeed alone. Our efforts will be successful because they are authentically collaborative.
- Transparency and clear communication are important. The health criteria that are used as the underpinnings of reopening the region must be clearly communicated to the public.
- Phasing our community back into business will be contingent upon meeting health criteria first and foremost. We must design our recommendations with evidence-based data.
- Designing policies during a pandemic is new for us all. We will adapt as we learn.
- We will capture the incredible innovation happening in our community and share best practices in a thoughtful and consistent way.
- We will recognize the various weaknesses and inequities exposed by the pandemic and begin to imagine how to make our economy and community stronger and more resilient.

Advisory groups

- Infrastructure
- Public health
- Small business
- Workforce & education (social needs and organized labor)

Industry working groups

- Construction
- Food & beverage
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Office & professional services
- Tourism & special events

Task force meetings (all via Zoom conference call)

- **April 24**
Remarks from Senator Watson, County Judge Eckhardt, Mayor Adler, Adriana Cruz
- **April 28**
Review of updated orders by Gov Abbott, breakout discussion by working group
- **May 4**
Review of draft recommendations and summary for each working group

Recommendations

Community partnerships

Effectively reopening the Central Texas economy will require the continued partnership that formed this task force. In partnership, our individual contributions are a collective strength.

- **Childcare availability** With schools closed for the remainder of the academic year and more businesses allowed to reopen, increasing childcare options is vital.
- **Reduce the digital divide** A lack of equity in access to broadband and connected devices presents obstacles to remote work and learning. Enabling creative solutions and future technologies, including the latest wireless broadband, will be important to this discussion. School districts can build upon recent innovations to expand access through use of emergency spending powers and private sector partnerships.
- **Public outreach and input** Near-term outbound communications should focus on Phases I and II reopening of businesses. An inbound feedback process to hear about successes and concerns from the public and to inform effective policy should be implemented. Feedback should be received from multiple stakeholder levels including public health, workforce, community organizations, and businesses.

Government City and County orders

- **Optional framework for contact tracing** Local officials should work with the State and public health experts to implement clear contact tracing procedures that will reduce the spread of COVID-19. The procedures should protect privacy, apply consistently/fairly, and minimize business interruption.
- **Testing** Improved and increased testing will be required to provide the data that will be key to monitoring the impact of reopening and on COVID-19 infection rates.
- **Industry guidance** Businesses need clear guidelines to follow for workplace safety standards to protect frontline workers and other at-risk workers from infectious diseases. Local guidance can be modeled after the construction industry and be consistent with the governor's order.

Government State of Texas orders

- **Public health criteria** Per GA-18, Gov. Abbott retains the authority to cease reopening in specific counties due to increased COVID-19 threats. Clear and measurable targets related to cases, hospitalizations, and fatalities are needed to determine status for each county.
- **Reduce the digital divide** Encourage the Governor's Broadband Development Council to begin drawing down federal funds for broadband infrastructure. High-speed internet availability for households by county is as follows:
 - Travis 99.02%, Williamson 95.24%, Hays 93.85%, Bastrop 70.40%, Caldwell 69.47%

Government Federal

- **Ensure equity for federal assistance** Due to oversubscription in the first round, many small businesses missed initial PPP funding. The second round of PPP funding may also be

exhausted before all eligible firms receive funds. Additionally, there are segments of the business community that were unable to participate in the PPP/EIDL programs. Local assistance funds should seek to address these gaps.

- **Fund infrastructure** Future congressional action should include capital funding for infrastructure projects (transit, aviation, highways, broadband) and reauthorize the FAST Act.

Private sector Business best practices

- **Remote work** Per CISA guidelines, workers should work remotely when possible. Federal Reserve Bank-Dallas estimates 48% of regional jobs are eligible for remote work.
- **Share best practices** The task force is committed to building a repository of best practices to support businesses as they seek guidance for reopening. Businesses are encouraged to share openly in order to be a resource to others and to contribute to shared knowledge.
- **Liability and authority** Businesses must follow the provisions within state and local orders and all applicable laws. However, businesses that are able should consider adopting higher standards for their own operations (mandatory use of face coverings, hygiene/sanitization protocols) to protect the health and safety of employees, customers, and visitors.

Compiled working group summaries

To view draft summaries of input from advisory and working groups, [please visit this link](#). These summaries are working draft documents. They will be routinely updated and should not be considered final drafts nor official recommendations of the task force.

Task force members

This task force comprises more than 100 community and business leaders that represent a wide range of interests, including small and large businesses in multiple industry sectors, business membership organizations, and community groups that support the needs of business such as transportation, public health, and safety.

Name	Organization
Neeraj Aggarwal	Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
Joan Altobelli	Austin YMCA
Tamara Atkinson	Workforce Solutions Capital Area
Mason Ayer	Kerbey Lane Cafe/United Way Board Chair
Josh Baer	Capital Factory
Ed Bailey	Austin City Limits Live & 3Ten
Cheyenne Baker	Freeman
Jason Ball	Round Rock Chamber of Commerce
Dianne Bangle	Real Estate Council of Austin
Marina Bhargava	Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
A J Bingham	The Bingham Group LLC (Representing the Greater Austin Restaurant Association)
Scott Blalock	JW Marriott Austin
Joe Bolash	Austin Hotel & Lodging Association Chair
Bill Brice	Downtown Austin Alliance
Veronica Briseño	City of Austin
Charles Brotherton	Travis County
Joseph Cajas III	The Cajas Digital Agency/Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber Board Chair
Tina Cannon	Austin LGBT Chamber
Gus Cardenas	Austin Healthcare Council
Sue Carpenter	United Way for Greater Austin
David Case	Schertz Bank & Trust
Allison Castle	Castle Communications
Chris Cervini	Austin Community College District
Peter Cesaro	GDHM/Real Estate Council of Austin Board Chair
Elisbeth Challenger	ZACH Theater
Emily Chenevert	Austin Board of Realtors
Derrick Chubbs	Capital Area Food Bank
Carrie Ciliberto	Home Builders Association of Greater Austin
Randy Clarke	Capital Metro
Krystle Cline	VORTEX Repertory Company
Beth Corbett	Central Texas Food Bank
Spencer Cronk	City of Austin

Dr Paul Cruz	Austin ISD
Scott Davidson	Code 4 Event Management/Emergency Services
Andy Davis	Ascension Seton
Cara DiMattina Ryan	Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area
Emily Dreyer	Dell Technologies
Denise Eisman	Austin Hotel & Lodging Association
Craig Enoch	Enoch Keever/Austin Chamber of Commerce Board Chair
Christine D Escobar	Univision Communications Inc
Dr Mark Escott	Interim Health Authority
David Evans	Integral Care
Gary Farmer	Heritage Title Company/Opportunity Austin Board Chair
Tamara Fields	Accenture
Joe Fowler	Home Builders Association of Greater Austin
Jay Fox	Baylor Scott & White
Frank Fuentes	U S Hispanic Contractors Association
Ryan Garrett	Stubb s Austin
Kate Garza	Ascension Seton
Mike Geeslin	Central Health
Jason Giulietti	Greater San Marcos Partnership
Michele Glaze	Samsung Austin Semiconductor
David Glenn	Home Builders Association of Greater Austin
J J Gottsch	Ryan Sanders Sports & Entertainment
Larry Graham	Texas Gas Service
Nikki Graham	Bank of America
Amber Gunst	Austin Technology Council
Sandy Hentges Guzman	Austin Area Research Organization
Kareem Hajar	Hajar/Peters LLP
Debbie Halpert	IBM
Tam Hawkins	Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce
Patricia V Hayes	PVH Consulting Group/Greater Austin Black Chamber Board
Jeremy B Hendricks	Southwest Laborers District Council/Laborers' International Union of North America
Kenny Hill	Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
Cathy Hoover	Westlake Chamber of Commerce
The Honorable Donna Howard	Texas House of Representatives
John Howard	Dell Technologies
Laura Huffman	Austin Chamber of Commerce
David Huffstutler	St David s HealthCare
Brett A Hurt	data world a Certified B Corporation
David Jabour	Twin Liquors
Charlie Jones	Four Leaf Productions

