COUNTY OF VAL VERDE  
STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE  
400 Pecan Street  
Del Rio, Texas 78840  

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUNC PRO TUNC  

THIS ORDER CORRECTS A CLERICAL MISTAKE IN THE EXHIBITS  

FOURTH AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  

Stay Home • Stay Safe  

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 16, 2020, due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19; and,  

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Owens, under the authority granted to the Governor pursuant to Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, may use all available local government resources to respond to the disaster and temporarily suspend statutes and rules, including those relating to purchasing and contracting, if compliance would hinder or delay actions necessary to cope with a disaster; and  

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Val Verde County Judge Owens issued an Order in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus; and,  

WHEREAS, the ongoing evaluation of circumstances related to the virus and the updated recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services warrant the March 16, 2020 Order of County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. be amended;  

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 ten (10) people;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Val Verde County Commissioners Court issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Val Verde County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster until 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2020, unless rescinded by order of the Commissioners Court;

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Val Verde County Judge Owens issued an Executive Order NUNC PRO TUNC First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency and a Supplement and Amendment to First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Second Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that took effect on April 7, 2020, at 12:00 midnight and expired at 11:59 p.m. on April 20, 2020.

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Supplement to Second Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that supplemented, BUT DID NOT REVOKE, the Second Amendment Declaration of Local Disaster that expired at 11:59 p.m. on April 20, 2020.

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Clarifying Order to the Supplement and Addendum to the Second Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that added to and supplemented the Supplement and Addendum to the Second Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that expired at 11:59 p.m. on April 20, 2020.

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Temporary Amendment to Standing Declaration of Local Disaster on April 17, 2020 that took effect at 12:00 midnight on April 21, 2020 and expired upon entry
of the Third Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency executed by Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr.

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Third Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that took effect at 12:00 midnight on April 21, 2020 and expires on 11:59 p.m. on May 5, 2020.

WHEREAS, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. with authority granted him by the Val Verde County Commissioners Court on March 18, 2020, issued a Fourth Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on April 30, 2020 that takes effect at 12:00 midnight on May 1, 2020 and expires on 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS:

Under the authority of Texas Government Code §418.108, Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, JR. ORDERS that the present order supersedes the Executive Order Third Amended Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency.

1. 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.

2. Exhibits “A” and “B” to this order are incorporated herein and made a part of this Order.

3. Effective Friday May 1, 2020 at 12:00 midnight and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday May 14, 2020:

   a. All individuals currently living within Val Verde County are strongly encouraged to shelter at their place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons are strongly encouraged to leave their residences only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform
Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, all as defined in Section 4b.

b. All businesses operating within Val Verde County, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 4b and Re-opened Businesses as defined below in Section 4d are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the County. For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e. working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached, including maintaining six foot social distancing for both employees and the general public.

c. All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are strongly discouraged, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

d. It is strongly encouraged that religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconference. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines set out by the U.S. President and CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 which includes maintaining a distance of at least six feet from another individual. The protocol for religious and worship services as set out in Exhibit “B” attached hereto shall be followed.

4. Definitions:

a. For purposes of this Order, individuals are strongly encouraged to leave their residence only to perform any of the following “Essential Activities”:

i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies need to work from home).
ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, or running).

iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.

v. To engage in activities relating to the repair or purchase of a motor vehicle.

vi. To engage in activities relating to the lease or purchase of household appliances and furniture.

vii. To attend religious services in conformity with this Order.

viii. To care for a family member or pet in another household.

b. For purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means:

i. Essential Healthcare Operations. Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities. Healthcare operations do not include elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures.

ii. Essential Government Functions. All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Government
Functions.” All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet, to the extent possible as described in the attached Exhibit “A.”

iii. Essential Critical Infrastructure. Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) including public works construction, residential and commercial construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, defense and national security-related operations, essential manufacturing operations provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet, to the extent possible. Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines attached which includes providing each employee with Personal Protection Equipment appropriate for the services performed.

iv. Essential Retail. Food service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers’ markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Liquor stores but only by drive through service. Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. The restriction of delivery or carry out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers. Gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
v. Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.

vi. Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses. Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate.

vii. Automotive Sales. Automotive dealerships shall establish a procedure by which individuals may visit the dealership for the purchase or repair of a motor vehicle in accordance with this order. The dealerships shall use virtual test drives whenever possible but may allow face-to-face test drives if all the parties in the vehicle wear an appropriate face covering. All services shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet and face covering, to the extent possible. Establish controls to require a minimum distance of six feet or more between patrons in lines queuing in front of and inside the establishment, using controls that may include, but are not limited to, placing markers to control the movement of patrons.

viii. Household Furniture and Appliance Sales. Household Furniture and Appliance Sales stores, shall establish a procedure by which individuals may visit the store for the purchase of household furniture and appliance sales in accordance with this order. All services shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet and face covering, to the extent possible. Establish controls to require a minimum distance of six feet or more between patrons in lines queuing in front of and inside the establishment, using controls that may include, but are not limited to, placing markers to control the movement of patrons.
x. Childcare Services. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.

c. The definition of “essential businesses” may change due to changes in the number of individuals testing COVID-19 positive in the county, unforeseen events such as a war, strike, riot, or an act of God which includes, but is not limited to a hurricane, flood, or hail storm. Thereupon, a declaration may be issued by Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. specifying the changes in the definition.

d. For purposes of this Order, and according to Exhibit “B” attached hereto, “Reopened Services” (to the extent that they not already classified as “Essential Services”) means:

i. Retail services that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer’s doorstep.

ii. In-store retail services, for retail establishments that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the retail establishment.

iii. Dine-in restaurant services, for restaurants that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant; provided, however, that this applies only to restaurants that have less than 51 percent of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages and are therefore not required to post the 51 percent sign required by Texas law as determined by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.

iv. Movie theaters that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening.

v. Shopping malls that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall; provided, however, that within shopping malls, the food court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.
vi. Museums and libraries that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy; provided, however, that (a) local public museums and local public libraries may so operate only if permitted by the local government, and (b) any components of museums or libraries that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed.

e. For Texas counties that have filed with DSHS, and are in compliance with, the requisite attestation form promulgated by DSHS regarding five or fewer cases of COVID-19, those in-store retail services, dine-in restaurant services, movie theaters, shopping malls, and museums and libraries, as otherwise defined and limited above, may operate at up to 50 percent (as opposed to 25 percent) of the total listed occupancy.

f. Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.

g. Golf course operations

h. Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government.

i. Such additional services as may be enumerated by future executive orders or proclamations by the governor.

j. The conditions and limitations set forth above for reopened services shall not apply to essential services. In providing or obtaining essential services or reopened services, people and businesses will follow the minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS, found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus, and implement social distancing, work from home if possible, and practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.

k. This includes also following, to the extent not inconsistent with the DSHS minimum standards, the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, as well as other CDC recommendations and the requirements set out in Exhibit “B” attached hereto. To promote health safety and to slow down or contain the spread of COVID-19, individuals are strongly encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings, but no jurisdiction can
impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering. Religious services should be conducted in accordance with the joint guidance issued and updated by the attorney general and governor. People shall avoid visiting bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons.

1. The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

m. This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling, or other outdoor sports, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

n. In accordance with CDC guideline and the requirements set out in Exhibit “B” attached hereto, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by the HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.

o. In accordance with Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-18, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance by students and shall not recommence before the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

p. Public education teachers and staff are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible, but may return to schools to conduct remote video instruction, as well as perform administrative duties, under the strict terms required by the Texas Education Agency.
q. Private schools and institutions of higher education should establish similar terms to allow teachers and staff to return to schools to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties when it is not possible to do so remotely from home.

5. Each establishment designated as an essential business in this order shall implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines and each establishment shall provide each employee with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) appropriate for the services performed pursuant to Exhibit “B” attached to this order.

6. Each establishment designated as an essential business in this order shall establish controls that require reasonable supervision of minors by the adults accompanying them that include, but are not limited to, appropriate social distancing, restricting access to products and inventory, and appropriate hygiene like covering one’s mouth when coughing or sneezing and using germ killing products whenever possible pursuant to Exhibit “B” attached to this order.

7. Grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, hardware stores, hospitals, and medical facilities are experiencing high levels of demand for a large number of products, requiring more deliveries from manufacturers and distribution centers to serve their customers. A number of Texas cities and local associations have implemented restrictions on delivery hours to stores to mitigate truck noise and traffic. Due to the need to deliver products as quickly and efficiently as possible during this critical timeframe, this Order hereby suspends all delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies in Val Verde County for the next 60 days.

8. Due to increased traffic in grocery stores and supermarkets and any retailer that stocks household items for essential use, and to ensure the public health and safety, the establishment of the following routine is hereby ORDERED to:

   a. Establish controls to require a minimum distance of six feet or more between patrons in lines queuing in front of and inside the establishment, using controls that may include, but are not limited to, a
requirement that each person in the que possess a shopping cart or by placing markers to control the movement of patrons.

b. Establish controls that require reasonable supervision of minors by the adults accompanying them that include, but are not limited to, appropriate social distancing, restricting access to products and inventory, and appropriate hygiene like covering one’s mouth when coughing or sneezing and using germ killing products whenever possible as outlined in the attachment hereto.

c. Limit shopping to individuals aged 65 and over during a specified date and time that will be widely publicized by the establishment to give notice to the public that these hours are in place, and the establishment shall give notice of the designated date and time to the County of Val Verde and the City of Del Rio, as well as any other news releasing entity such as newspapers, radio, or social media. This does NOT prohibit individuals aged 65 and over from shopping at any other time that the establishment is open for business.

d. Require all employees who have face to face contact with the public to wear Personal Protective Equipment. Provide all employees who have face to face contact with the public with PPE. PPE includes face masks and gloves and any other PPE appropriate to prevent spread of the virus.

9. Due to increased demand for bath or toilet tissue resulting from stock up buying and individuals who purchase for resale, a mandatory limit on toilet paper sales is instituted until the supply chain meets the demand or two weeks, whichever comes first. All sales of bath or toilet tissue occurring in Val Verde County are limited to the greater of: (a) twelve (12) rolls per purchase or (b) one (1) package per purchase.

10. Due to concern over the spread of the COVID-19 virus, door-to-door solicitations or sales are prohibited. Notice is hereby given that, coming onto personal property of another for the purpose of door-to-door solicitations or sales may be considered CRIMINAL TRESPASS and may be prosecuted in accordance with the Texas Penal Code.

11. Due to concern over the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all business establishments shall require each employee who has face-to-face contact with the public to wear Personal Protective Equipment. PPE includes face masks.
and gloves and any other PPE appropriate to the service provided that will help prevent spread of the virus.

12. Due to concern over the spread of the COVID-19 virus, any individual (patrons and employees included) in the establishment should wear a face covering as follows:

   a. FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS
      
      i. The face covering can be scarves (dense fabric, without holes), bandanas, neck, gaiter, or other fabric face coverings.
      
      ii. The face covering must be large enough to cover the nose and mouth of the wearer so as to assure the inhale or exhale of oxygen through the mask or covering.
      
      iii. The face covering must be worn each time a person leaves his place of residence and remain in place until he returns.
      
      iv. All individuals five-years-old and older shall wear a face covering at all times except as otherwise specified in the standing declaration of disaster.
      
      v. The face covering can be scarves (dense fabric, without holes), bandanas, neck, gaiter, or other fabric face coverings.
      
      vi. As per CDC recommendations, try to avoid purchasing medical grade masks if a shortage of supply exists in Val Verde County to allow health professionals and law enforcement officers access to appropriate Personal Protection Equipment.

   b. YOU DO NOT NEED TO WEAR A MASK IF:
      
      i. the only people you anticipate to come in contact with or be in close proximity are members of your own household;
      
      ii. you are exercising outdoors you are either alone or with members of your household, and you respect the social distancing requirements upon the unexpected approach of a member of the public who is not a member of your household;
      
      iii. you are in your own home or on your own property;
      
      iv. you are alone in your office; you are alone or with members of your household in your vehicle;
      
      v. not wearing a face covering is necessary for purposes of a health emergency or for identification purposes;
vi. not wearing a face covering is necessary for consumption purposes; or

vii. you are law enforcement or a first responder who shall utilize their standard operation procedures for the use of this equipment in conformance with policy and practice and as authorized by their agencies.

c. EFFECTIVE USE OF MASK

i. Each should be worn for only a short period of time and regularly replaced with new ones because of the increased possibility of microscopic holes.

ii. Face coverings must FULLY COVER both the mouth and the nose.

iii. Face coverings must be worn consistently and as early as possible.

iv. Frequent hand washing and other hygienic measures should also be utilized.

v. Six foot distancing should be utilized, in addition to the requirements set above, whenever possible.

13. Due to the public health emergency, the Office of the Val Verde County Judge hereby advises the Val Verde County Justices of the Peace to suspend eviction hearings and writs of possession for at least the next 60 days to prevent renters from being displaced.

14. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, all of the members of the household are ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, any community function or out in public until cleared by the Texas State Department of Health or a local health authority.

15. Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities shall prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation performed pursuant to Exhibit “B” attached to this order.

16. In accordance with Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-19, All licensed health care professionals shall be limited in their practice by, and must comply with, any emergency rules promulgated by their respective
licensing agencies dictating minimum standards for safe practice during the COVID-19 disaster. Every hospital licensed under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code shall reserve at least 15 percent of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients, accounting for the range of clinical severity of COVID-19 patients, as determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

17. Public and private schools and institutions of higher education are instructed by this order to provide a safety plan to the Val Verde County Emergency Management Office 72 hours before students return to a classroom setting.

18. A 24-hour curfew shall be imposed on individuals who are 17 years or younger who:
   a. are not in school;
   b. are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent or guardian; or
   c. are not going directly to his/her place of employment or returning from his/her place of employment.

19. This City of Del Rio ordinance that prohibits camping in city parks is hereby adopted as part of this declaration. Camping in county parks is hereby prohibited. Use of the playground equipment in city and county parks is hereby prohibited. Social distancing guidelines shall be observed in any public space including city and county parks. The city ordinance addressing parks is attached as Exhibit “A.”

20. Due to the public health emergency, swimming, wading, kayaking or other recreational activities shall be prohibited in the San Felipe Creek or its banks.

21. The Office of the Val Verde County Judge and the Health Authority instructs all non-essential and sick employees to remain at home. Employees of private businesses and nonprofits with six or more employees in the County of Val Verde can use their paid sick leave when they are sick or to care for sick family members. Val Verde County department heads are instructed to maintain a minimum number of employees to conduct essential business while all others shall be sent home on administrative leave with pay. The Office of the Val Verde County Judge and the County Health Authority instruct all sick Val Verde County employees to remain at home.
22. Val Verde County Judge Lewis G. Owens, Jr. shall establish as task force comprised of personnel from the city of Del Rio and the county of Val Verde to serve under his direction for the purpose of enforcing Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-18 and GA-19 as well as Val Verde County's current Declaration of Disaster for Public Health Authority.

23. Texas Commissioned Peace Officers are hereby authorized to enforce this Order. A violation of this Order may be punishable through criminal or civil enforcement. Some violations of this Order are a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days. A violation of this Order is enforceable by the filing of a probable cause affidavit alleging the criminal violation with the appropriate court, or by issuing a citation to the person violating the Order. The citation must contain written notice of the time and place the person must appear before a magistrate of this state, the name and address of the person charged, and the offense charged.

24. The County of Val Verde must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Val Verde County 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 of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ORDER IS FOR EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES, MITIGATION PROCEDURES AND RESPONSE PLANS TO THIS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

IN TESTIMONY, WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the county seal to be affixed at my office in the City of Del Rio, Texas, this the 30th day of April, 2020.
Attested by:

Hon. Lewis G. Owens, Jr.
Val Verde County Judge

Hon. Generosa G. Ramon
Val Verde County Clerk

Filed with the Clerk of Val Verde County on April 1, 2020.
City of Del Rio Ordinances
Relating to Use of City Parks

Camping remains prohibited. City Manager Matt Wojnowski must authorize camping in writing and he has not authorized camping as required by the following ordinance.

Sec. 19.5-46. - Camping prohibited.
Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the city manager, it shall be unlawful for any person in a park to camp in any area of such park or to otherwise set up tents, shacks or any other temporary shelter for the purpose of such camping.
EXHIBIT “B” TO DECLARATION OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY
NUNC PRO TUNC

1. High Risk Individuals. People 65 years or older, especially people 65 years or older with medical issues like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weakened immune system, are at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. ACCORDINGLY, individuals described SHOULD observe the following recommendations:

   a. Strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines, as well as all recommendations in this declaration.
   b. Minimize face-to-face contact with others. Avoid young children.
   c. If someone is assisting you, you and your family members or caretaker should wear cloth face masks. Remember a family member or caretaker can give you the virus even if they don’t appear to have symptoms.
   d. Try grocery or restaurant delivery, mail order prescriptions, and phone appointments with your doctor. Call 2-1-1 if you need help with essentials.
   e. Reach out to friends, family, or neighbors who can deliver essential items.
   f. If you must go out, wear a cloth face mask, and stay six feet away from others.
   g. Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
   h. Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often. Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, or eating utensils with others.
   i. If you have mild symptoms (difficulty breathing, or a rapidly worsening cough or fever), call your healthcare provider. If symptoms are severe, call 9-1-1. P Check in regularly with neighbors, friends, and family by calling, texting, emailing, video chatting, or even writing letters.
   j. Walking, gardening, digital books, games, and online religious services are great ways to stay active and connected.

2. Nursing Homes. The number of infections of staff and residents in nursing facilities continues to grow. The number of fatalities of nursing facility residents continues to grow. Enhanced response and control measures are needed to ensure greater protection for those vulnerable Texans and their families. A consistent and strong response is needed now to effectively bend the COVID-19 curve in these facilities. This declaration will ensure all nursing facilities engage in strong and comprehensive mitigation plans to control infection spread. ACCORDINGLY, Nursing Homes SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for Nursing Homes as follows:

   a. Quantify the extent of the infection immediately: The first step in the process is to know exactly what level of infection exists at a facility. Upon the first positive test result of a nursing facility staff member or resident, the facility shall work with local health authorities, DSHS, and HHSC to coordinate testing of nursing facility staff and residents. In addition, nursing facilities will have access to the Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force to provide rapid response and a medical triage team that can be
deployable by DSHS through the Emergency Medical Task Force upon notification of a positive COVID-19 patient. If needed, an additional team can be sent to assist the facility with immediate needs.

b. Implement a comprehensive mitigation plan: First, the facility should immediately initiate measures to control the infection using best practices and CDC requirements. Second, as soon as any test results are available, the facility shall further implement a comprehensive mitigation plan that takes into account the extent of the test results and directly addresses all isolation, infection control, staffing, and other operational aspects of the facility. The mitigation plan must address the specific level of infection that is discovered in that facility.

c. Re-evaluate current COVID-19 positive facilities: Those currently positive facilities that have not completed comprehensive testing will need to conduct an assessment of their current infection levels and consult with local health authorities, DSHS, and HHSC to coordinate testing of nursing facility staff and residents. The facility will then develop and implement a comprehensive mitigation plan with any additional testing results taken into consideration. This will require the state regulatory and public health experts, local public health partners, and health system partners to engage with the nursing facility to ensure that collection kits are available, and that testing is conducted quickly and efficiently, so that the comprehensive mitigation plan is implemented immediately.

d. Appropriate isolation and placement of COVID-19 patients: The comprehensive mitigation plans should first and foremost focus on complete containment of the infection level present at that facility. The residents who are positive need to be isolated in the most effective manner available such as removal to a different facility (possibly a COVID-19 positive dedicated facility) or removal to an isolated wing of their facility. The facility should also place limitations on movement of positive residents within the facility, as well as relocate any residents to designated COVID-19 negative areas/wings.

e. Implement enhanced access controls to the facility: The mitigation plan shall manage and control access to the facility by the healthcare partners who frequent the facility and any other individuals providing critical services in the facility. The plan should keep individuals from interacting with both positive and non-positive patients. This should include complete limitations on any unnecessary visitations, enhanced screening and decontamination techniques, and limited access to the facility through special entrances to control infection.

f. Enhance control of staff access to the facility: To the greatest extent possible, facilities should discourage staff and employees from working at multiple facilities. This is not a prohibition, which could lead to further staffing shortages, but additional control measures should be taken, and, in some circumstances, limitations are necessary. Facilities should establish very clear definitions, roles, and requirements for each different type of clinical or staffing partner which is employed by or provides services within a nursing facility. The screening criteria above should reflect the risk factors for each type of partner. Additionally, facilities should strengthen existing protocols for third party providers who “come and go” to deliver services at other facilities, ensuring the use of a separate entrance and exit, decontamination practices, and greater screening criteria or restrictions if a person has been at a facility with COVID-19 positive results.
g. Effective notifications: The facility shall implement immediate measures to inform all who interact (or may have recently interacted) with a facility with positive patient(s) so that further limitations can be enacted to control the spread of infection to residents, family members, medical staff, therapists, and other service providers who may frequent the facility. This needs to be done in strict adherence to CDC guidelines, DSHS guidance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) guidance, and the HHSC Nursing Facility Response Plan.

h. Continue prevention efforts in facilities that do not have an infection: Facilities that do not have a positive detection to-date will continue to undergo infection control assessments and enhancements in compliance with guidance from CDC guidelines, DSHS guidance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) guidance, and the HHSC Nursing Facility Response Plan. HHSC staff will engage with local facilities to provide additional support and help identify any required changes or enhancements to infection control strategies/procedures to minimize the risk of introducing COVID-19 into the facility. This plan requires strong partnership and engagement between all local and state officials. Upon a positive test result, the nursing facility must notify and work with local public health department officials, HHSC regulatory staff, and DSHS public health experts to seek input so that the comprehensive mitigation plan is in compliance with this order. Nursing facilities must also adhere to reporting requirements established by CMS. DSHS and HHSC will develop additional guidance to other long-term care facilities (such as assisted living facilities and intermediate care facilities and others) to enhance infection control standards in those facilities. Finally, agency staff will develop the standards for recovery for staff and residents in a long-term care facility, which will inform any modifications to mitigation strategies and the need for any further testing.

3. All Individuals. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, all individuals SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols as follows:

a. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering,
hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

b. Self-screen BEFORE going into a business for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Chills
   - Repeated shaking with chills
   - Muscle pain
   - Headache
   - Sore throat
   - Loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea
   - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

c. Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the business.

d. Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a business, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

4. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for all Employers. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all businesses choosing to operate in Texas. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Employers should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Employers should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, all employers SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for employers as follows:

   a. Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
   b. Screen employees before coming into the business.
c. Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   • Cough
   • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   • Chills
   • Repeated shaking with chills
   • Muscle pain
   • Headache
   • Sore throat
   • Loss of taste or smell
   • Diarrhea
   • Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   • Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19.

d. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
   • In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
   • In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
   • If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

e. Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).

f. Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the business.

g. Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

h. If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.

i. Consistent with the actions taken by many employers across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

j. Health protocols for your facility:
- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Place readily visible signage at the business to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

5. Non-essential Retailers. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18:

   a. Non-essential retailers may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy. In addition, non-essential retailers may operate through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer’s doorstep.

   b. Shopping malls may operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall, but shopping mall food court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.

   c. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all retailers choosing to operate in Texas. Retailers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Retailers should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Retailers should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, retailers SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for serving a customer as follows:

   - Retailers are encouraged to consider dedicating a certain period of time each day for only at-risk customers or deliver purchased goods to vehicles to reduce the need for at-risk customers to enter the store.
   - If practical, monitor what items customers touch to clean or disinfect when the customer leaves the retail establishment.
   - Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.
   - At-risk customers are those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.
6. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Employees of Retailers. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all businesses choosing to operate in Texas. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Employers should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Employers should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, all employers of retailers SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for retail employees as follows:

a. Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.

b. Screen employees before coming into the retail establishment.

c. Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Chills
   - Repeated shaking with chills
   - Muscle pain
   - Headache
   - Sore throat
   - Loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea
   - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

d. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
   - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
• In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
• If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
• Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
• Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the retailer.
• Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
• If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.
• Consistent with the actions taken by many retailers across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

e. Health protocols for your retail facilities:
• Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
• Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
• Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
• Place readily visible signage at the retailer to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

7. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Customers of Retailers. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all retail customers. These protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should
stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, retail customers SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for retail customers as follows:

a. Self-screen before going into a retailer for any of the following, and do not go into a retailer with any of the following symptoms:
   • Cough
   • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   • Chills
   • Repeated shaking with chills
   • Muscle pain
   • Headache
   • Sore throat
   • Loss of taste or smell
   • Diarrhea
   • Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   • Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-1
b. Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a retail establishment and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the retail establishment.
c. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
d. Wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.
e. Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a retailer, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

8. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Restaurants. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, restaurants may operate for dine-in service up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant, and may not offer valet services except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking. As used in executive order GA-18, this applies only to restaurants that are not required to post the 51% sign required by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Restaurants may continue to provide to-go or delivery services. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all restaurants choosing to operate in Texas. Restaurants may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which
facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Restaurants should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Restaurants should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, restaurants SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for restaurants follows:

a. Parties maintain at least 6 feet distance apart from other parties at all times, including while waiting to be seated in the restaurant.
b. Make a hand sanitizing station available upon entry to the restaurant.
c. No tables of more than 6 people.
d. Dining:
   - Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table.
   - Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions.
   - Use disposable menus (new for each patron).
   - If a buffet is offered, restaurant employees serve the food to customers.
   - Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.
e. Health protocols for your employees:
   - Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
   - Screen employees before coming into the restaurant.
   - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
     - Cough
     - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
     - Chills
     - Repeated shaking with chills
     - Muscle pain
     - Headache
     - Sore throat
     - Loss of taste or smell
     - Diarrhea
     - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
     - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
   - Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
     - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of
fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or

- In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

- Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).

- Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the restaurant, and between interactions with customers.

- Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

- Consistent with the actions taken by many restaurants across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

- Health protocols for your facilities:
  - Consider having an employee manage and control access to the restaurant, including opening doors to prevent patrons from touching door handles.
  - Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, and chairs.
  - Regularly and frequently clean restrooms, and document the cleanings.
  - Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
  - Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
  - Place readily visible signage at the restaurant to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
  - Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.
  - Clean and sanitize restaurants daily.

9. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Patrons of Restaurants. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all restaurant patrons in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help
protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, restaurant patrons SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for retail customers as follows:

a. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same party. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering when not sitting at the table, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

b. Self-screen before going into a restaurant for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Chills
   - Repeated shaking with chills
   - Muscle pain
   - Headache
   - Sore throat
   - Loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea
   - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

c. Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a restaurant and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the restaurant.

d. No tables of more than 6 people.

e. Customers should wash or sanitize their hands after the payment process.

f. Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when not at the table, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

10. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Movie Theaters. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, movie theaters may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all movie theaters choosing to operate in Texas. Movie theaters may adopt
additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Movie theaters should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Movie theaters should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, movie theaters SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for movie theaters as follows:

a. Utilize remote ticketing options, as available, to help manage capacity limitations.
b. Ensure proper spacing between patrons in the movie theater by:
   • Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows:
     o Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
     o Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
   • Alternate rows between customers (every other row left empty).
c. Disinfect seats and frequently touched areas between screenings.
d. For movie theaters providing food service to patrons:
   • Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table.
   • Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions.
   • Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart the theater.
   • Use disposable menus (new for each patron) unless the menu can be thoroughly sanitized after each use.
   • If the theater allows customers to write down their food orders inside the theater, provide take home pencils and notepads that cannot be used by other customers.
   • Have wait staff sanitize or wash hands between interactions with customers.
e. Movie theaters with counter food service for patrons:
   • Provide condiments or flatware only in single use, individually-wrapped items, and provide condiments only upon request.
   • Have employees follow proper food-handling protocols.
   • Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
   • Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.
f. Health protocols for theater employees:
   - Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
   - Screen employees before coming into the movie theater.
   - Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19
     - Cough
     - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
     - Chills
     - Repeated shaking with chills
     - Muscle pain
     - Headache
     - Sore throat
     - Loss of taste or smell
     - Diarrhea
     - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
     - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-1

   g. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
      - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
      - In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above;
      - If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

   h. Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).

   i. Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the movie theater, and between interactions with customers.

   j. Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

   k. If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.
1. Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

m. Health protocols for your theater facilities:
   - Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
   - Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
   - Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
   - Place readily visible signage at the movie theater to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
   - Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of customers depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.

11. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Movie Theater Customers. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all movie theater customers. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, movie theater patrons SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for movie theater patrons as follows:

   a. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals who are not attending the movie together. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

   b. Self-screen before going into a movie theater for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
      - Cough
      - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
      - Chills
      - Repeated shaking with chills
      - Muscle pain
      - Headache
• Sore throat
• Loss of taste or smell
• Diarrhea
• Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
• Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-1

c. Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a movie theater and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the movie theater.

d. Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a movie theater, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

e. Wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.

12. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Public Museums and Libraries. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, public museums and libraries may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy, and must close any components of the museum or library that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas. Local public museums and libraries may operate only if permitted by the local government. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all museums and libraries choosing to operate in Texas. Museums and libraries may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Museums and libraries should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Museums and libraries should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, public museums and libraries SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for their employees as follows:

a. Train all employees on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.

b. Screen employees before coming into the museum or library.

c. Send home any employee who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   • Cough
   • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Chills
• Repeated shaking with chills
• Muscle pain
• Headache
• Sore throat
• Loss of taste or smell
• Diarrhea
• Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
• Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

d. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
• In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
• In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
• If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

e. Have employees wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the museum or library, and between interactions with visitors.

f. Have employees maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

g. If an employer provides a meal for employees, employers are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each employee.

h. Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

i. Health protocols for your facilities:
• Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
• Disinfect any items that come into contact with visitors.
• Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and visitors.
• Place readily visible signage at the facility to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
13. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Visitors of Public Museums and Libraries. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all museum and library visitors in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, visitors of public museums and libraries SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for public museums and libraries as follows:

a. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not attending the museum or library together. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

b. Self-screen before going into a museum or library for any of the following, new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Chills
   - Repeated shaking with chills
   - Muscle pain
   - Headache
   - Sore throat
   - Loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea
   - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

c. Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a museum or library and after any interaction with employees, other visitors, or items in the museum or library.

d. Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a museum or library, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.
14. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Outdoor Sports Participants. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, individuals may engage in outdoor sports, provided that the sports do not include contact with other participants, and no more than four participants play the sport at any time. Please note, under executive order GA-18, individuals shall avoid public swimming pools. Under the current county order, recreational activity is prohibited in San Felipe Creek. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals engaging in outdoor sports in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. ACCORDINGLY, outdoor sports participants SHALL observe the minimum standard health standards as follows:

a. Self-screen before playing in an outdoor sport for any of the following, new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   - Chills
   - Repeated shaking with chills
   - Muscle pain
   - Headache
   - Sore throat
   - Loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea
   - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
   - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

b. Special consideration for golf courses:
   - Clean and sanitize golf carts and push carts between uses.
   - Except for members of the same household, no more than one individual per golf cart.
   - Clean and disinfect driving range golf balls between use.
   - Ensure separation of at least 6 feet between golfers on the driving range
15. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Religious Services. The Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor have been providing joint guidance regarding the effect of executive orders on religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and places of worship. Below is an excerpt from the joint guidance for executive order GA-18, issued on April 27, 2020. The same minimum standard health protocols would apply to funeral services, burials, and memorials.

In accordance with Governor Abbott's executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all churches, congregations, and places of worship in Texas. Churches, congregations, and places of worship may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans. The same minimum standard health protocols would apply to funeral services, burials, and memorials.

We know now that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Churches, congregations, and places of worship should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, churches, congregations, and places of worship SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols as follows:

a. Strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch or participate in the service remotely.
b. Designate an area inside the facility reserved for the at-risk population, or offer a service for at-risk population attendees only.
c. Ensure proper spacing between attendees.
d. Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows: - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
e. Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
f. Alternate rows between attendees (every other row left empty).
g. Train all employees and volunteers on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
h. Screen employees and volunteers before coming into the church, congregation, or place of worship.
i. Send home any employee or volunteer who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
• Cough
• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
• Chills
• Repeated shaking with chills
• Muscle pain
• Headache
• Sore throat
• Loss of taste or smell
• Diarrhea
• Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
• Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

j. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
   • In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
   • In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
   • If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

k. Do not allow an employee or volunteer with known close contact to a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).

l. Have employees or volunteers wash or sanitize their hands upon entering.

m. Have employees or volunteers maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals.
   If such distancing is not feasible, then other measures including face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

n. Consistent with the actions taken by many churches, congregations, and places of worship across the state, consider having employees, volunteers, and attendees wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, they should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

o. Health care protocol for churches, congregations and houses of worship:
   • Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
   • Disinfect seats between services.
• Disinfect any items that come into contact with attendees.
• Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available.
• Place readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
• If a church or place of worship provides meals for employees, volunteers, or attendees, they are recommended to have the meals individually packed for each employee, volunteer, or attendee.
• Maintain rigorous sanitation practices like disinfection, handwashing, and cleanliness when preparing or serving anything edible.

16. Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Single-Person Offices. As outlined in Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, services provided by an individual working alone in an office may operate. In accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive order GA-18, the following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all single-person offices. Employers may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees and customers. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our community. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Businesses should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Businesses should also be mindful of federal and state employment laws and workplace safety standards. ACCORDINGLY, single-person offices SHALL observe the minimum standard health protocols for single-person offices as follows:

a. Be trained on all appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
b. Self-screen before coming into the office.
c. Do not go into the office with new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
   • Cough
   • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
   • Chills
   • Repeated shaking with chills
   • Muscle pain
   • Headache
   • Sore throat
   • Loss of taste or smell
   • Diarrhea
   • Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
• Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
d. Do not allow employees with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
  • In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 21 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and/or the employee was tested; or
  • In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  • If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
e. Do not allow an employee with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
f. Wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the business.
g. Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
h. Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider wearing a cloth face covering (over the nose and mouth) upon entering the premises and when using common areas, including elevators, restrooms, break rooms, or stairs. If available, you should consider wearing nonmedical grade face masks.
i. Health protocols for a single-person office:
  • Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.
  • Disinfect any items that come into contact with customers.
  • Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
  • Place readily visible signage at the business to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

ATTESTATION FOR COUNTIES WITH FIVE OR FEWER LABORATORY-CONFIRMED CASES

Rural counties may, on an individualized basis, increase capacity for restaurants, retail, shopping malls, museums, libraries, and/or movie theaters if the county judge certifies and affirms to DSHS that the following standards have been investigated and confirmed to be met:
1. The county had five or fewer COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases on April 30, 2020 or, at a later date, five or fewer active COVID-19 cases as verified by DSHS.
2. The county has created a list of testing opportunities in the county or the area.
3. The county has been in contact with its designated regional advisory council to ensure the community is prepared for any needed health care transfers.
4. The county has provided public notice to the residents of the county, including: ✧ Signs and symptoms of COVID-19. ✧ Recommended health and safety protocols in line with CDC guidance. ✧ Information regarding how residents can get tested in the area. ✧ A link to the DSHS website where residents can go to learn about community spread in nearby communities, in order to help county residents understand their risk to exposure if they travel regularly outside of the county.
5. The county has contacted each of the following types of facilities located in the county to ensure they are complying with HHSC and CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19: ✧ Nursing homes ✧ Assisted living facilities ✧ Industrial, agricultural, or business facilities with a significant number of employees ✧ City or county jails.
6. The county is equipped and prepared to protect vulnerable populations, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
7. The county has documented procedures to be activated if a resident becomes COVID-19 positive, including procedures to take appropriate measures as necessary in line with the plan to open Texas.
8. The county has contacted DSHS in order to create a plan to ensure contact tracing will occur within 48 hours of a positive test reported to DSHS.
9. If the county meets the above standards and chooses to do so, the county may do the following: ✧ Increase dine-in restaurant capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the restaurant’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding restaurants still apply. ✧ Increase retail in-store capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the retailer’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding retail still apply. ✧ Increase movie theater capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the movie theater’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding movie theaters still apply. ✧ Increase museum and library capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the museum’s or library’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding museums and libraries still apply.
10. All counties must adhere to all other provisions set forth on the previous pages, including the minimum standard health protocols. Counties that file the attestation and qualify for 50% occupany will revert to the 25% occupany limits if any of the following occurs:
   a. Five consecutive testing / tracking intervals with positivity rates greater than 12% in that interval.
   b. The county has more than 3 positive cases per 1,000 residents.
   c. Less than 15% of the surge capacity in hospitals for the catchment area is available.
11. The attestation form, including the supplemental county information, to be completed by the county judge, can be found on the Department of State Health Services Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) website at https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.