# DECLARATION AND 8<sup>TH</sup> RATIFICATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AMENDMENT, MODIFICATION AND REPLACEMENT HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a respiratory virus; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Hockley County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Hockley County Judge, Sharla Baldridge, declared a local state of disaster for public health emergency pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, based upon the need for extraordinary measures to contain COVID-19 and to prevent its spread throughout Hockley County; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas renewed his state-wide disaster proclamation for an additional thirty (30) days certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-29 and a Proclamation amending Executive Order GA-28 relating to mass gatherings in Texas during the disaster posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the Hockley County Commissioners' Court authorized the Hockley County Judge to extend the Declaration of Local Disaster to update the restrictions set out to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Hockley County Judge, Sharla Baldridge has determined that, due to evolving circumstances and the issuance of Executive Order GA-29 and the desire of Hockley County Commissioners Court to continue to safely re-open businesses within Hockley County, and in accordance with the authority of the Hockley County Commissioners Court, the following order is now adopted;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY HOCKLEY COUNTY JUDGE, SHARLA BALDRIDGE, THAT:

**SECTION 1**. The recitals outlined above are found to be true and correct and are incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

**SECTION 2**. All terms and conditions of the Governor's Executive Order GA-29 are hereby adopted by referenced and is incorporated herein as though forth fully herein. Additionally, the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Governor in conjunction with issuing Executive Order GA-29 are also adopted, to the extent it does not conflict with the Order, and all businesses, religious institutions and citizens are encouraged to review and follow said guidelines. A copy of the Executive Order GA-29 and

the Proclamation amending Executive Order GA-28 are attached hereto and incorporated herein as though set forth fully herein.

**SECTION 3.** Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distance from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply as to conditions specifically set out in GA-29 attached hereto and incorporated herein as though set forth fully herein.

**SECTION 4.** Nothing in this Order should be construed as preventing a private establishment of business from implementing their own restrictions or regulations in accordance appropriate minimum state health guidelines.

**SECTION 5**. All other terms and conditions not specifically amended by this Order or superseded by GA-29 shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6.** Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the Hockley County Clerk.

**SECTION 7**. This Declaration shall go into effect immediately upon approval and continue until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Hockley County Judge or the Hockley County Commissioners Court.

**SECTION 8.** It is the intention of this Declaration to at all times be in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive orders as they are issued.

**SECTION 9**. Executive Order GA-29 does not supersede Executive Orders GA-10, GA-13, GA-17, GA-19, GA-24, GA-25, GA-27, or GA-28 as amended.

**SECTION 10**. That the Hockley County Judge is authorized to use all available resources of Hockley County reasonably necessary to comply with the Order.

Issued this 24th, day of \_\_\_\_\_\_

Sharla Baldridge, Hockley County Judge

ATTEST:

ennifer Palermo, Hockley County Clerk



#### GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

Secretary of State

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs Secretary of State State Capitol Room 1E.8 Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-29 relating to the use of face coverings during the  ${\rm COVID}$ -19 disaster:

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson

Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment

# Executive Order

## BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department Austin, Texas July 2, 2020

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 29

Relating to the use of face coverings during the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in each subsequent month effective through today, I have renewed the disaster declaration for all Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 continues to represent a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at using the least restrictive means available to protect the health and safety of Texans and ensure an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, as Texas reopens in the midst of COVID-19, increased spread is to be expected, and the key to controlling the spread and keeping Texans safe is for all people to consistently follow good hygiene and social-distancing practices; and

WHEREAS, due to recent substantial increases in COVID-19 positive cases, and increases in the COVID-19 positivity rate and hospitalizations resulting from COVID-19, further measures are needed to achieve the least restrictive means for reducing the growing spread of COVID-19, and to avoid a need for more extreme measures; and

WHEREAS, I have joined the medical experts in consistently encouraging people to use face coverings, and health authorities have repeatedly emphasized that wearing face coverings is one of the most important and effective tools for reducing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, given the current status of COVID-19 in Texas, requiring the use of face coverings is a targeted response that can combat the threat to public health using the least restrictive means, and if people follow this requirement, more extreme measures may be avoided; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face covering is important not only to protect oneself, but also to avoid unknowingly harming fellow Texans, especially given that many people who go into public may have COVID-19 without knowing it because they have no symptoms; and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 2:30pm O'CLOCK WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable under Section 418.173 by fine;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3, 2020:

Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; <u>provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to the following:</u>

- 1. any person younger than 10 years of age;
- any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
- any person while the person is (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household;
- any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- any person obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while visiting a bank or while obtaining a personalcare service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
- any person while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
- any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or actively administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
- any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
- 10. any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience; or
- 11. any person in a county (a) that meets the requisite criteria promulgated by OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
  2:30(M) O'CLOCK

the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) regarding minimal cases of COVID-19, and (b) whose county judge has affirmatively opted-out of this face-covering requirement by filing with TDEM the required face-covering attestation form—provided, however, that wearing a face covering is highly recommended, and every county is strongly encouraged to follow these face-covering standards.

Not excepted from this face-covering requirement is any person attending a protest or demonstration involving more than 10 people and who is not practicing safe social distancing of six feet from other people not in the same household.

TDEM shall maintain on its website a list of counties that are not subject to this face-covering requirement pursuant to paragraph number 11. The list can be found at: <a href="https://www.tdem.texas.gov/ga29">www.tdem.texas.gov/ga29</a>.

Following a verbal or written warning for a first-time violator of this face-covering requirement, a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

Local law enforcement and other local officials, as appropriate, can and should enforce this executive order, Executive Order GA-28, and other effective executive orders, as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order and other effective executive orders. But no law enforcement or other official may detain, arrest, or confine in jail any person for a violation of this executive order or for related non-violent, non-felony offenses that are predicated on a violation of this executive order; provided, however, that any official with authority to enforce this executive order may act to enforce trespassing laws and remove violators at the request of a business establishment or other property owner.

This executive order hereby prohibits confinement in jail as a penalty for the violation of any face-covering order by any jurisdiction.

Executive Order GA-28 is hereby amended to delete from paragraph number 15 the phrase: ", but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering."

The governor may by proclamation amend this executive order or add to the list of people to whom this face-covering requirement does not apply.

This executive order does not supersede Executive Orders GA-10, GA-13, GA-17, GA-19, GA-24, GA-25, GA-27, or GA-28 as amended. This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 2:50 FM O'CLOCK

JUL 0 2 2020



Given under my hand this the 2nd day of July, 2020.

GREG ABBOTT

Governor

ATTESTED BY:

RUTH R. HÜGHS

Secretary of State



#### GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs Secretary of State State Capitol Room 1E.8 Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation amending Executive Order GA-28 relating to mass gatherings in Texas during the disaster posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The original proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Greedry S. Davidson
Exceptive Clerk to the Governor

Attachment

Post Office Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711 512-463-2000 (Voice) Dial 7:1-1 For Relay Services

### **PROCLAMATION**

BY THE

# Covernor of the State of Texas

#### TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in each subsequent month effective through today, I have renewed the disaster: declaration for all Texas counties; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive: Order GA-28 on June 26, 2020, relating to the targeted response to the COVID-19 disaster as part of the reopening of Texas; and

WHEREAS, additional measures are needed to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby amend paragraph numbers 5 and 12 of Executive Order GA-28, effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3, 2020, to read as follows:

- 5. For any outdoor gathering in excess of 10 people, other than those set forth above in paragraph numbers 1, 2, or 4, the gathering is prohibited unless the mayor of the city in which the gathering is held, or the county judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves of the gathering, and such approval can be made subject to certain conditions or restrictions not inconsistent with this executive order;
- 12. Except as provided in this executive order or in the minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS, found at <a href="www.dshs.texas.gov/coronayirus">www.dshs.texas.gov/coronayirus</a>, people shall not be in groups larger than 10 and shall maintain six feet of social distancing from those not in their group;

This proclamation shall remain in effect and in full force for as long as Executive Order GA-28 is in effect and in full force, unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 2nd day of July, 2020.

GREG ABBOTT

Governor

JUL 0 2 2020

ATTËSTED BY:

RUTH R. HUGHS: Secretary of State

> FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 2130 (2000) CLOCK

> > JUL 0 2 2020