

ROBERTSON COUNTY
ORDER

FILED
7.21.2020 4:37 pm
Stephanie M. Sanders, County Clerk
Robertson County, Texas
By: [Signature]

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Robertson County Judge Charles Ellison issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020 due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, an order which has been extended several times and remains in effective; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order reopening certain business in Texas for in-person services so long as certain workplace safety rules are followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation Amending paragraph 5 of Executive Order 26 reducing the number of outdoor gatherings from 500 to 100 that Mayors and County Judges can impose additional restrictions on; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020 Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will pause any further phases to reopen Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020 Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-28 which closed all bars and reduced dine-in occupancy to fifty percent (50%) capacity; and

WHEREAS, on JUNE 30, 2020, This Court entered an order for mandatory face covering, and social distancing in all business "Commercial Entities" in the Unincorporated areas of Robertson county.

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

WHEREAS, this Order is necessary to stress the importance to **EVERYONE** that it is time to unite to protect the lives, health and financial welfare of Robertson County and the State of Texas. It seems as though every day we take a step backward towards devastation instead of forward towards prosperity.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charles Ellison, County Judge of Robertson County, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and in accordance with guidance from the Robertson County Health Authority and as well as additional input from medical, business and government staff as well as the Commissioner's Court by unanimous vote at the Regular Meeting June 30, 2020, do here by Order as follows:

- I. **Effective immediately this court extends the June 30, 2020 Order to remain in effect from 12am July 22, 2020 to 12am August 1, 2020. This court reserves the right to further extend this order.**
- II. **Effective July 22, 2020 at 12:00am thru 12:00am August 1, 2020 (unless**

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extended) all Robertson County Public Buildings and all Businesses, "Commercial Entities" in the unincorporated area of Robertson County, whether they have public contact or not must implement a "Health and Safety Policy" that provides for requiring Face Coverings and Social Distancing Protocols. This Policy must be posted in a conspicuous place on the outside of the business to alert all who enter the business of the policy.

- III. **All individuals over the age of ten (10), including employees, customers, visitors, invitees and contractors who are out in public and/or entering a place of business shall use all reasonable efforts to comply with the Face Coverings and Social Distancing Protocols of businesses. All individuals over the age of ten (10) shall also use all reasonable efforts in general when not in businesses but in public places by wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing recommendations of maintaining six (6) feet of separation, or wearing face coverings when this is not feasible.**

*Face Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief, and must cover both the mouth and nose.

This Order acknowledges that face coverings are not "reasonable" in all situations such as:

- When eating or drinking,
- Driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk
- When operating outdoor equipment
- While outside or engaging in physical activity outside
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, such as a Bank.

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All individuals should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and care for face coverings.

Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- I. Washing hands before you leave home and when you return
- II. Staying at least six feet away from others
- III. Avoiding touching your face
- IV. Not using disposable masks more than three times, and
- V. Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

Consistent with Executive Order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.

Additionally, at this time, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on businesses who do not comply with this Order (subject to change).

Attached is a sample "Health and Safety Policy"

VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE IS REQUESTED, NEEDED AND EXPECTED FROM EVERYONE.

ORDERED this 21st day of July, 2020.



Charles Ellison, County Judge
Robertson County, Texas

By Shelley Smith



Stephanie M. Sanders

Attest County Clerk

By Kacie Burns

EXAMPLE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. It is this business's policy because of the hidden nature of this threat to require the following:

1. FACE COVERING REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ENTER AND REMAIN ON PREMISES. All persons over the age of ten (10), including employees, customers, visitors, invitees and contractors ("Patrons"), who enter this business must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. **FACE COVERINGS DO NOT NEED TO BE WORN IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- a. When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- b. When driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- c. When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- d. When pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- e. While in a building or participating in an activity that requires security surveillance, screening, or identification, for example, banks;
- f. When consuming food or drink; or
- g. When receiving a service where a face covering would impair the service.

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS. Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals should maintain six (6) feet of social distancing whenever possible.

- a. Employees should not work within six (6) feet of one another, except to the extent necessary to provide services.
- b. Patrons should maintain six (6) feet of separation from other individuals outside their household, to the extent feasible when inside the business premises.
- c. Patrons queuing or waiting inside or on the premises of the business must maintain six (6) feet of separation from other individuals outside their household.

3. VIOLATIONS. Patrons who do not wear a face covering will be asked to leave the premises and will not be provided goods or services until the face covering requirements are followed.

4. NOTICE AND SIGNAGE. Notice of this Health and Safety Policy will be posted in a conspicuous location of the business.