

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Hunt County Judge Bobby Stovall
Date: 4/28/2020, 3:30pm
Re: RE-OPENING OF HUNT COUNTY

The Hunt County Commissioners Court passed a Resolution containing an Emergency Declaration on March 23, 2020, and then passed similar Resolutions on April 3 and April 14, 2020. The April 14 Order is effective through midnight on April 30, 2020.

Yesterday, the Governor issued Executive Orders GA-18, GA-19 and GA-20, along with a 64-page guidance document called “Texans Helping Texas: The Governor’s Report to Open Texas.” Those documents are available on the Governor’s website: gov.texas.gov. After considering the content of those documents, the Commissioners Court determined that it was in the best interest of the public to allow the regulatory portion of the Emergency Order Resolution to lapse at Midnight on Thursday, April 30, and to follow the Governor’s guidance.

The Governor’s explanation of the Executive Orders – which will become effective on Friday morning – includes the following points:

1. Under Phase I, certain services and activities are allowed to open with limited occupancy;
2. All retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and malls are permitted to reopen on Friday, May 1. These services must limit their capacity to 25% of their listed occupancy. Within shopping malls, the food-court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed;
3. All museums and libraries may open under the same 25% occupancy limitation, but interactive areas of museums must remain closed. State libraries and museums will open by May 1, and local public museums and libraries may reopen only if permitted by the local government. Single-person offices may reopen as well;
4. Churches and places of worship remain open;
5. Outdoor sports are allowed to resume so long as no more than four participants are playing together at one time, and certain social distancing practices are followed;
6. Local government operations, including county and municipal government operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, may reopen as determined by the local government;
7. Essential services such as farmers and ranchers, grocery and drug stores, banks, and gas stations will continue to operate;
8. Public swimming pools, bars, gyms, cosmetology salons, massage establishments, interactive amusement venues, such as bowling alleys and video arcades, and tattoo and piercing studios will remain closed through Phase I;
9. Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities must remain closed to visitors unless to provide critical assistance;
10. The Governor’s Report also outlines a long-term comprehensive mitigation plan for nursing homes in Texas;
11. Certain restrictions related to health care professionals have been relaxed; and
12. The mandatory 14-day quarantine period for individuals traveling from Louisiana has been eliminated, but remains in place for travelers from 5 states and 4 metro areas.

The Commissioners Court again extended the county-wide state of “local state of disaster for public health emergency” in light of the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure that Hunt County taxpayers receive their fare share of any state or federal funding which may be available.

Starting this Friday, Hunt County will no longer update the Frequently Asked Questions section of its website, and all questions should be directed to the relevant state agencies. If you are wondering whether your individual business activities will be considered “essential” by the state, you should direct your question to the Texas Department of Emergency Management at the bottom of the “Essential Services” page located at: tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices.