

Order Regarding Public and Private Gatherings

1. The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety. At the current time, the shortage of available tests and rapid nationwide spread of COVID-19 in tested areas indicates there is a strong likelihood of currently undetected community transmission of COVID-19 within the City. Due to said transmission, the Governor of the State of Texas and President of the United States declared states of disaster and emergency on March 13, 2020.
2. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of coronavirus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of 10 persons or more anywhere in Zapata County beginning immediately and continuing for 15 days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law. Accordingly, all persons are prohibited from organizing, managing, furthering, and attending Mass Gatherings for the next 15 days, which is subject to extension pursuant to requirements of state law. Expiration date will be Tuesday, March 31st at 11:59 P.M.
3. For all other gatherings, it is strongly recommended that social distancing protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf) including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 10 persons.
4. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, no in house restaurant dining will be allowed. The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options are allowed and highly encouraged.
5. Definitions and further guidance:
 - a. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely

to bring together 10 or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space. Due to their social aspects, facilities such as gyms and bingos are included. All 8-liner businesses are ordered closed.

- b. A "Mass Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.
- c. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple separate enclosed spaces in a single building so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increased cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.
- d. For purposes of clarity, a "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:
 - (i) gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, so long as 10 people are not present in any single space at the same time;
 - (ii) use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 10 or more people are not present in the space at the same time;
 - (iii) public or private schools, child day care centers, or adult day cares;
 - (iv) spaces where 10 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops;
 - (v) office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
 - (vi) grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, automotive shops, livestock feed stores or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
 - (vii) hospitals, medical facilities and shelters;
 - (viii) jails and detention centers; and
 - (ix) banks or other lending institutions

In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow social distancing recommendations and harm reduction measures (such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible).

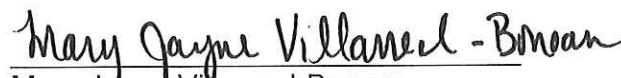
6. It is hereby recommended that persons should avoid gatherings in excess of 10 persons. Organizations should cancel gatherings in excess of 10 persons. Persons in high-risk populations (ie. Elderly, etc.) should avoid gatherings in excess of 10 persons. Organizations that serve primarily high-risk persons should cancel gatherings in excess of 10 persons. Organizations that serve highrisk populations (defined below) should follow CDC guidance for social distancing. "High-Risk Populations" include people who are:
- o 60 years old and older;
 - o People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
 - o People who are pregnant or were pregnant in the last two weeks.
 - o People experiencing homelessness.
7. The Local Health Authority and Director of the Health District may update restrictions set out in this document as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of the County Judge's Declaration of Public Health Emergency and any extension the Commissioners Court of Zapata County.
8. A violation of this order is a violation of the emergency management plans of the City and County. A person who violates any provision of this order may be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation and separate day of violation, imprisonment of up to 180 days per violation and separate day of violation, and additional amounts as authorized by law.

ORDERED this the 17th day of March, 2020.



Joseph Rathmell
Zapata County Judge

ATTEST:


Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan
Zapata County Clerk

By: , Chief Deputy

