



MARGIE R. IBARRA
COUNTY CLERK
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WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

BY JD DEPUTY

**WEBB COUNTY
CONTINUING EMERGENCY MEASURES
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
EMERGENCY ORDER**

July 6, 2020

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared COVID-19 a National Emergency;
and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Texas has declared a state of disaster; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Executive Order of the Governor Relating to Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, by proclamation issued March 16, 2020, the County Judge declared a state of disaster for Webb County resulting from:

Coronavirus disease, also referred to COVID-19 has been confirmed in Webb County. Therefore, it is necessary to take action to prevent further opportunity for COVID-19 to spread in our community.

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Commissioners Court of Webb County continued the state of disaster for Webb County until terminated by Order of the Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, the on May 12, 2020 the Governor renewed and extended the disaster proclamation for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Executive Orders, Relating to the expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster;
and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the County Judge is designated as the Emergency Management Director of the County of Webb, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, request assistance from the governor of state resources, and access funds available for disaster relief and reimbursement at the state and federal level.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tano E. Tijerina, County Judge for the County of Webb, do hereby certify that COVID-19 has created a disaster and have further determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to further respond, prevent and alleviate the further spread of COVID-19 and do hereby **ORDER**:

This **ORDER** is intended to supplement and be read consistently with The Governor's Executive Order GA-10, GA-13, GA-17, GA-19, GA-24, GA-25, GA-27, or GA-28 as amended and future orders of the Governor and to provide additional guidance to Webb County residents based on worsening local conditions.

In accordance with guidance and the minimum recommended Health Protocols issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>), and to achieve the goals established by the Governor in "Texas Helping Texans" The Governor's Report to Open Texas. to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Webb County shall minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. People over the age of 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.

Effective immediately and continuing until modified or terminated by Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina as specified below:

- I. Social Distancing.** All persons shall practice Social Distancing except when in the presence of only members of one's own household or residence, or when otherwise exempted by this Order. Parents and Guardians of children under 10 shall be responsible for maintaining social distance between child members of their household and others' households. For purposes of this Order, and as outlined in the Guidelines from the CDC, the DSHS Commissioner and the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other individuals, and not shaking hands.
- II. Health and Safety Policy – Commercial Entities.** From the date of this Executive Order, all commercial entities in Webb County providing goods or services directly to the public must develop and implement a health and safety policy ("Health and Safety Policy"). The Health and Safety Policy must require, at a minimum, that all employees or visitors to the commercial entity's business premises or other facilities wear face coverings when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public where six feet of separation is not feasible. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Executive Order may also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the

transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks or health screenings. Commercial entities must post the Health and Safety Policy required by this Executive Order in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employees and visitors of all health and safety requirements. Failure to develop and implement the Health and Safety Policy required by this Executive Order within seven (7) calendar days following the Effective Date of this Order may result in a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

III. Face Coverings. Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth is necessary to help slow the spread of the virus. Every person in Webb county, 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; provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to the following:

1. any person younger than 10 years of age;
2. any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
4. 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;
5. any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
6. 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 personal-care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
7. any person while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
8. any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poli watcher, or actively administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
9. 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

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.

The CDC advises face coverings for people 2 years or older. Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Residents must continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their residence.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU NOT OBTAIN OR WEAR MEDICAL MASKS or N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. Our healthcare workers and first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment.

Parents and Guardians of children under ten years of age are responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.

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 people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask.

IV. Hygiene. Residents must keep up the following habits:

- a. washing hands before you leave home and when you return;
- b. staying at least six feet away from others;
- c. avoiding touching nose or face;
- d. not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- e. washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

V. Social gatherings. Social gatherings shall be avoided or minimized. Vulnerable individuals (those over 65, who are immunocompromised, or who have underlying health conditions putting them at increased risk) shall avoid groups of more than two. Further, socializing by anyone in groups of more than 10 individuals (unless all participants are members of a single household or residence) is prohibited, except as expressly permitted by this Order or the Governor's Executive Orders. All participants in lawful gatherings or groups are nonetheless subject to the required social distancing, hygiene, and face covering behaviors set forth herein and any other requirements imposed by the Governor's Executive Orders. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's residence.

VI. Webb County Buildings. The Webb County Justice Center Complex shall have designated points of access and that all other county owned or leased buildings shall have a single controlled point of entrance. Further, all citizens and employees shall be appropriately screened before entering any Webb County owned or leased building and be asked to cover their mouth and nose for the duration of the time they are in the county building. At the control points, citizens and employees shall be asked certain risk-related questions and their temperature taken by least obtrusive means. Any individual with a temperature exceeding 100 °F or who fails the screening process will be not be allowed to enter the building. Citizens are encouraged to call the department or office you are attempting to visit prior to visiting a county owned or leased facility. All social distancing measures must be implemented at the above-described control points.

Face coverings are required to be used by all County employees at work and in all County owned and operated facilities.

VII. Antibody Testing. A number of health care providers and others have been marketing and administering COVID-19 antibody testing to consumers. If you are considering or planning an antibody test please make sure that the provider will administer an antibody test that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and that you will be fully informed of the test protocol and test results. The City and County will work together to protect the community from misleading or inaccurate testing practices. Before you receive an antibody test please review FDA information and guidance which can be found on <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/important-information-use-serological-antibody-tests-covid-19-letter-health-care-providers>.

VIII. Enforcement. 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.

IX. Severability. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Executive Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Executive Order should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

X. Interpretation and Additional Terms. To the greatest extent possible, this Executive Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive orders issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Executive Order, enforceable as set forth herein without the necessity of the issuance of any further orders.

This **ORDER** supersedes all prior Orders. This executive order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, expires by operation of law or is superseded by the governor.

This **ORDER** applies to all areas of Webb County, including the City of Laredo, the City of Rio Bravo, the City of El Cenizo, Aguilares, Antonio Santos Subdivision, Botines Subdivision, Bruni, Colorado Acres, D-5 Acres, Four Points Subdivisions, Hillside Acres I, Hillside Acres II, La Coma Subdivision, La Presa Subdivision, Laredo Ranchettes Subdivision, Las Haciendas Unit I, Las Lomas I, Las Lomas II, Las Pilas I, Las Pilas II, Lewis Addition (Mirando), Los Altos Subdivision, Los Corralitos Subdivision, Los MInerales and Annex, Los Veteranos (US Hwy 59), Los Veteranos 83, Mirando City, Oilton, Old Milwaukee, Pueblo East, Pueblo Nuevo,

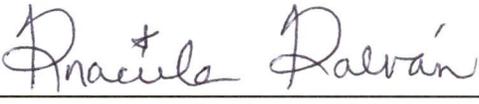
Ranchitos 359 East, Ranchitos Los Arcos, Ranchitos Los Centenarios, Ranchitos Los Fresnos, Ranchitos Los Mesquites, Ranchitos Los Nopalitos, Ranchitos Los Veteranos 359, Rancho Penitas West, San Carlos I, San Carlos II, Tanquecitos I, Tanquecitos II.

ORDERED THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2020.



Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

ATTEST:
Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

By: 
Graciela Galvan, Senior Deputy Clerk

