



Covid-19 Update



May 1, 2020 at 3:04 pm: Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the area:

Henderson County: 28 cases

Athens (inside City limits): 8 cases

Athens (outside City limits): 4 cases

Click on the links below for the most updated numbers.

<https://txdshs.mapdownloads.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>)
[Health and Human Services](#)

<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>).

<https://txdshs.mapdownloads.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>).

[Northeast Texas Public Health District \(https://www.nethealthcovid19.org/blog/post/confirmed-cases-of-covid-19-in-east-texas\)](https://www.nethealthcovid19.org/blog/post/confirmed-cases-of-covid-19-in-east-texas)

* Disclaimer pertaining to the link provided: This dashboard will be updated daily by 12 Noon. Data displayed are current as of 8pm for the prior day.

May 1, 2020 [Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_05.01.2020.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_05.01.2020.pdf) announcing case 8 in the City of Athens.

May 1, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13520\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13520) announcing case 26, 27, and 28 in Henderson County.

April 28, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13500\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13500) announcing case 25 in Henderson County.

April 24, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13492\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13492) announcing case 23 and 24 in Henderson County.

April 22, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13484\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13484) announcing case 20, 21, and 22 in Henderson County.

April 21, 2020 [Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.21.2020.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.21.2020.pdf) announcing case six and seven in the City of Athens.

April 21, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13478\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13478) announcing case 16, 17, 18, and 19 in Henderson County.

April 20, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12476\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12476) announcing case 14 and 15 in Henderson County.

April 17, 2020 [Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.17.20201.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.17.20201.pdf) announcing case five in the City of Athens.

April 17, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12472\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12472) announcing case 13 in Henderson County.

April 15, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/photos/a.1580354132231121/2548033385463186/?type=3&theater\)](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/photos/a.1580354132231121/2548033385463186/?type=3&theater) announcing case four in the City of Athens.

April 15, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12446\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12446) announcing case 12 in Henderson County.

April 14, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12436\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12436) announcing case 11 in Henderson County.

April 10, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12416\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12416) announcing case nine and ten in Henderson County.

April 9, 2020 [Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.09.2020.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.09.2020.pdf) announcing case three in the City of Athens.

April 9, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12412\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12412) announcing case eight in Henderson County.

April 9, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12400\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12400) announcing case seven in Henderson County.

April 8, 2020 [Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.08.2020.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.08.2020.pdf) announcing case two in the City of Athens.

April 8, 2020 [Press Release \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12396\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12396) announcing cases five and six in Henderson County.

April 5, 2020 (<https://www.facebook.com/notes/city-of-athens-texas-government/first-confirmed-coronavirus-case-in-the-city-of-athens/2540060386260486/>)[Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.05.2020_rev.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.05.2020_rev.pdf) announcing first case in the City of Athens.

April 5, 2020
(<https://www.facebook.com/1183925751679929/photos/a.3599745636764583/3655975537808259/?type=3&theater>)[Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.05.2020_rev.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.05.2020_rev.pdf) announcing cases three and four in Henderson County.

April 4, 2020
(<https://www.facebook.com/1183925751679929/photos/rpp.1183925751679929/3653262281412918/?type=3&theater>)[Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.04.2020_rev.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_04.04.2020_rev.pdf) announcing case two in Henderson County.

March 29, 2020
(<https://www.facebook.com/1183925751679929/photos/a.3599745636764583/3632598603479286/?type=3&theater>)
(<https://www.facebook.com/1183925751679929/photos/a.3599745636764583/3632598603479286/?type=3&theater>)
(<https://www.facebook.com/1183925751679929/photos/a.3599745636764583/3632598603479286/?type=3&theater>)[Press Release \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_03.29.2020_rev.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/city_of_athens_press_release_03.29.2020_rev.pdf) announcing first case in Henderson County.

April 30, 2020: Henderson County announced their will be drive thru COVID- 19 testing available to Henderson County residents Saturday, May 2, 2020 and Sunday, May 3, 2020 by appointment ONLY. To register and schedule for testing, call 512-883-2400 or online [CLICK HERE \(https://txcovidtest.org/\)](https://txcovidtest.org/). For more information, view the full document [here \(https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13516\)](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=13516).

Monday, April 27, 2020: Governor Abbott will allow the "Stay at Home" order to expire on April 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Also, effective May 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., Texas will begin to slowly reopen businesses. Many of the non-essential business can open and operate at 25% of their listed occupancy and must comply with regulations by the CDC. For question about the occupancy of your business, please contact our Development Services Department at 903-677-6615. The businesses that will be allowed to open include:

- Retail services
- Dine-In restaurants
- Movie theaters
- Shopping malls
- Museums
- Libraries
- Golf Courses

People shall avoid visiting bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons.

Documents referenced in announcement:

<https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-17.pdf> GA-17

<https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-17.pdf>) - relating to the establishment of the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas.

GA-18 (<https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-18.pdf>) - relating to the expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID- 19 disaster.

GA-19 (<https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-19.pdf>) - relating to hospital capacity during the COVID-19 disaster

GA- 20 (<https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-20.pdf>) - relating to expanding travel without restrictions as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

[Open Texas Report \(https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/gov.abbottopen.texas.report.pdf\)](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/gov.abbottopen.texas.report.pdf) - complete with a check list for each business that can and wants to open.

Monday, April 27, 2020: The City of Athens Utility Billing Department can accept credit card and debit payments over the phone. Call 855-612-9049 to make your payment.

Thursday, April 23, 2020: Republic Services will resume yard waste and bulk pick-up on its regular scheduled day of Wednesday every week starting April 29, 2020.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020: Effective immediately, Republic Services has changed their schedule. Both trash and recycling will be collected on your scheduled trash collection day only.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020: Athens Municipal Court proceedings are postponed until May 14th. At this time defendants are able to enter a pleas and make payments via the City's website www.municipalonlinepayments.com/athenstx (<http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/athenstx>) or through the drive thru window at City Hall.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020: Henderson County Commissioners Court issued a new disaster declaration Tuesday, April 7, that includes a shelter at your place of residence order and accepts the Homeland Security list of essential businesses. View the Full Order with list of essential businesses and non-essential business provisions [here](https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12394) (<https://www.henderson-county.com/home/showdocument?id=12394>). Video of today's Henderson County Commissioner's Court [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Pd99KggEM0) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Pd99KggEM0>).

The County's order includes a "locked door" provision for non-essential businesses.

This provisions reads: "Non-essential businesses with ten or fewer employees at one location can continue to conduct business so long as they do so with a locked front door with no public access to their business and they must maintain social distancing and CDC guidelines for all employees in the business."

Because of the County's order, the locked door provision goes into effect in Athens at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 7.

To help our businesses understand if they qualify under the locked door provision, and to ensure the continued health of our community, the City of Athens is establishing a registration process for non-essential businesses. This registration is free and will help to minimize enforcement issues with the County's order.

If you intend to continue conducting business in the City of Athens under the locked door provision, please contact planning@athenstx.gov (<mailto:planning@athenstx.gov>) or 903-677-6615.

You can download the registration form online [here](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/registration%20for%20non-essential%20businesses%20covid-19%20form.pdf) ([https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/registration for non-essential businesses covid-19 form.pdf](https://athenstx.clevermuttportal.com/resources/registration%20for%20non-essential%20businesses%20covid-19%20form.pdf)).

Thursday, April 2, 2020: The Athens City Council directed residents to shelter at their place of residence during a special meeting held at 3:30 today. The order is part of an Amended Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency.

The declaration reads in part:

"All individuals currently living within the City of Athens are directed to shelter at their place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must, at all times, as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing as specified by Center for Disease Control (CDC)."

The declaration officially incorporates the executive order issued by Gov. Greg Abbott (GA-14) into the City of Athens Emergency Plan.

In addition, The City will close all City Parks to group activities and the use of playground equipment will not be allowed. Walking paths and outdoor space will remain open with social distancing requirements as outlined by the CDC.

The complete Declaration can be read [HERE](https://clevermuttportal.com/_coa_media/resources/packet%20city%20council%20emergency%20meeting%204-2-2020.pdf) (https://clevermuttportal.com/_coa_media/resources/packet%20city%20council%20emergency%20meeting%204-2-2020.pdf). The Facebook Live video can be viewed [HERE](#)

(<https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/videos/560401627922776/>).

Wednesday, April 1, 2020: Watch this Public Service Announcement from Governor Abbott about Covid-19. [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a57ed1Lg3o8) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a57ed1Lg3o8>.)

Tuesday, March 31, 2020:

Governor Greg Abbott today issued an Executive Order implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols for the entire state of Texas. The protocols direct all Texans to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. The Governor's Executive Order renews and amends his previous order enforcing federal social distancing guidelines for COVID-19.

The order:

- Defines "essential services" as everything listed by the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce). (<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>)
- Keeps schools closed until at least May 4.
- Continues social distancing protocols in place throughout April.

"Social distancing is our best tool in the fight against COVID-19, and the actions we have taken thus far have proven to be effective in limiting the spread of this virus," said Governor Abbott. "Now it is time to redouble our efforts to reduce further exposure as much as possible and flatten the curve. As with all the actions the state is taking, the Essential Services and Activities Protocols is informed by the expertise and guidance of the CDC as well as state and local health officials. I urge my fellow Texans to heed these heightened social distancing directives to protect their health and the health of those around them. By following these guidelines, we will limit the spread of COVID-19 and overcome this challenge together." View the full Executive Order [here](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-14_Statewide_Essential_Service_and_Activity_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-31-2020.pdf) (https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-14_Statewide_Essential_Service_and_Activity_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-31-2020.pdf). How to determine if you are an essential service, click [here](http://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/) (<http://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>).

[Guidance for Houses of Worship During the COVID-19 Crisis](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/admin/2020/Press/AG%20Guidance%20for%20Hou19%20Crisis.pdf)

(<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/admin/2020/Press/AG%20Guidance%20for%20Hou19%20Crisis.pdf>)

Tuesday, March 31, 2020: The City of Athens and Henderson County hosted a Physicians Roundtable to discuss the current COVID-19 situation. Participants include Mayor Monte Montgomery, County Judge Wade McKinney, Dr. Douglas Curran, Dr. Michael Swartwood, Dr. Karah Coker, Dr. Ted Mettetal, County Attorney Clint Davis, and City Manager Elizabeth Borstad. View the video on our Facebook page [HERE](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/videos/157861468768052/) (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/videos/157861468768052/>).

Sunday, March 29, 2020: Governor Abbott put into effect 2 executive orders and one proclamation.

--Order No. 1: Governor mandated a 14-day quarantine for road travelers arriving in Texas from any location in Louisiana. The self-quarantine procedure will mirror the process outlined in the Governor's previous Executive Order requiring mandatory self-quarantine for air travelers from the New York Tri-State Area and New Orleans, Louisiana. This mandated quarantine will not apply to travel related to commercial activity, military service, emergency response, health response, or critical infrastructure functions. View the full Executive Order [here](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-12_roadway_quarantine_for_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf) (https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-12_roadway_quarantine_for_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf)

-- Order No. 2: Governor prohibited the release of individuals in custody for or with a history of offenses involving physical violence or the threat of physical violence. This Executive Order comes in response to concerns of the release or anticipated release of individuals because of COVID-19 who are deemed a danger to society. View the full Executive Order [here \(https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-13_jails_and_bail_for_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf\)](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-13_jails_and_bail_for_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf)

--Proclamation: The Governor also issued a proclamation regarding his prior Executive Order mandating a self-quarantine for individuals arriving from the New York Tri-State Area and New Orleans, Louisiana. View the full proclamation [here \(https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/DISASTER_COVID19_disaster_air_travel_restric_adds_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf\)](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/DISASTER_COVID19_disaster_air_travel_restric_adds_IMAGE_03-29-2020.pdf). The Executive Order now includes air travelers arriving from the following states and cities:

- California
- Louisiana
- Washington
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Chicago, Illinois
- Detroit, Michigan
- Miami, Florida

Monday, March 23, 2020: The Athens City Council extended the mayor's Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency until the council takes action to cancel it. Current and Full Declaration can be viewed at the bottom of the page.

Monday, March 23, 2020: Athens City Council postponed the upcoming council election until November 3, 2020 because of issues related to Covid-19

Thursday, March 19, 2020: Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation. The order is in effect until April 3, 2020.

In it he issued the following:

-- Order No. 1: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

-- Order No. 2: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

-- Order No. 3: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

-- Order No. 4: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

Full Executive Order can be viewed at the bottom of the page.

Thursday, March 19, 2020: Mayor for the City of Athens signs a Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020: The City of Athens has announced that they will be modifying their operations or closing some facilities until further notice because of health concerns from COVID-19. The City of Athens will continue to monitor the situations and will notify residents and visitors of any updates to these modified facility operations.

City Hall

The lobby at Athens City Hall will be closed until further notice beginning Wednesday, March 18, because of health concerns from COVID-19.

City employees will be on duty. If you have a question for the staff, please call 903-675-5131.

If you have a municipal court fine or water bill to pay, you can utilize the drive-thru or pay online at <http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/athenstx> (<http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/athenstx>).

Municipal Court will be cancelled until April 9, 2020

Water will not be shut off at this time and late penalties have been suspended on overdue bills.

Development Services Center (DSC)

The DSC lobby will remain open at this time. Public access will be restricted to the lobby only. If you have a question for the staff, please call 903-677-6615.

DSC is now able to take credit card payments to minimize handling money.

Trash Collection

Beginning March 31 recycling will not be taken to the recycling center. It will be taken to the landfill.

This change is being made for two reasons:

1. Refuse for recycling has to be handled by employees. By eliminating this it lowers the chance for the spread of COVID-19.
2. Because people are home more right now there has been an increase in the amount of refuse, so the recycling trucks are being used to pick up regular trash.

In addition, there will be no brush or bagged leaves picked up, or bulk pickup for the near future.

Residents are urged to continue their regular schedule of trash and recycling at this time for continuity's sake. Just be aware that recycling is being treated as regular trash for now.

Community Collection Site

The Community Collection Site located on Aaron St that is usually open on Saturdays will be closed until further notice.

Partnership Center (Economic Development Corporation/Athens Chamber/Keep Athens Beautiful)

The Partnership Center is closed until further notice but staff will be on duty. If you have a question, contact information is provided below.

Economic Development Corporation

903-675-4617

Athens Chamber of Commerce

903-675-5181

Keep Athens Beautiful

903-675-7961

Athens Police Department

The Athens Police Department is limiting public access to the lobby only. Investigation and patrol operations will continue as normal. For those that have questions or would like to speak to an officer, please call 903-675-5454.

Athens Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency

WHEREAS the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Athens, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Association (SBA) has designated COVID-19 as a qualifying event for the provision of Economic Injury Disaster Loans for businesses and private non-profits in affected communities.

WHEREAS, this Declaration activates the City's Emergency Management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Athens, Texas has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency;

THEREFORE, Be it Declared by the Mayor of Athens, Texas that;

A local state of disaster is hereby declared for Athens, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

This declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk, pursuant to §418.108 (c) of the Government Code.

The City of Athens Declaration Plan incorporates the Governor's Executive Order GA-08 and any Orders issued by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) pertaining to COVID-19 and all amendments or additional orders related thereto.

This declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Athens Emergency Plan.

Pursuant to Tex. Gov. Code §418.173, failure to comply with an emergency plan or with a rule, order, or ordinance adopted under the plan, including any executive order, proclamation, or regulation issued by the Governor during a state disaster or by the Mayor or City Council during a local disaster, is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and shall remain in effect until the City Council of the City of Athens takes additional action.

ORDERED this the 23rd day of March 2020.

Executive Order of the Governor of the State of Texas

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
March 19, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 08

Relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation.

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

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, “[t]he governor is responsible for meeting . . . the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters” (Section 418.001 of the Texas Government Code), and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility.

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 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:52 AM O’CLOCK
MAR 19 2020

Governor Greg Abbott
March 19, 2020

Executive Order GA-08
Page 2

- Order No. 1 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Order No. 2 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding governor.



Given under my hand this the 19th day of March, 2020.

Greg Abbott

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

Ruth R. Hughs

RUTH R. HUGHS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:52 AM O'CLOCK

MAR 19 2020



f (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTexas/>)

Community Notifications

Rave Alert is a free service that allows individuals to sign up for notifications sent from state and local authorities. Rave Alert keeps residents and travelers informed on potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic and other emergencies.

[CLICK HERE TO ENROLL \(HTTPS://WWW.SMART911.COM/SMART911/REF/REG.ACTIO](https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.actio)

About Athens, Texas

Welcome to our City! Athens has the charm of a small southern town while still retaining many of the qualities of a larger city. With Dallas and Tyler only a short drive away, we're the perfect spot to live, work, and play for those who want the benefits of a smaller city, but easy access to larger metro areas.

Quick Links

- [What's Happening in Athens \(/whatand39s-happening\)](/whatand39s-happening)
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- [Parks \(/parks\)](/parks)
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- [Garbage & Recycling \(/garbage-and-recycling\)](/garbage-and-recycling)
- [Water Service \(/water-service\)](/water-service)
- [Contact Us \(/contact\)](/contact)

Photo Albums

