



**Jim Wells County Emergency Declaration  
Stay Home, Stay Safe  
Revised Order and Directive Issued April 24, 2020  
Second Amended Order to Stay at Home  
(Supersedes Prior Orders)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Jim Wells County Judge Juan Rodriguez, Jr. issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 20, 2020, due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people's interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Jim Wells County Commissioners Court issued an Extension of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Jim Wells County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster until rescinded by order of the Commissioners' Court;

WHEREAS, the County Judge has issued several Orders since the extension of the Disaster Declaration under the authority of Section 418(g) of the Texas Government Code that authorizes the County Judge "to control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area",

WHEREAS, the Governor Greg Abbott, has issued an Executive Order GA-15 related to hospital capacity during the COVID-19 disaster:

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, has issued an Executive Order GA-16 related to strategic reopening of select services, extending social distancing, reaffirming declaration of religious services as essential services, closure of in person school classes for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year and other orders and recommendations;

WHEREAS, the County's Stay at Home Order is amended to be consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders) and President's Guidelines and supersedes the previous Stay at Home Order; and

WHEREAS, the on-going evaluation of circumstances related to the coronavirus and the updated recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services warrant further Order.

NOW THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, JIM WELLS COUNTY JUDGE ORDERS.

1. Effective as of 12:01 p.m. on April 24, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2020:

- a) All individuals currently living within Jim Wells County are ordered to Stay at Home at their place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include homes, condominiums, townhomes, apartments, duplexes, hotels, motels, shared rentals, recreational vehicles, motor homes, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must always as reasonable as possible maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences or enter or leave the territorial limits of this County only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, or Reopened Services. all as defined in Section 2.
- b) All business operating within Jim Wells County, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 2, and Reopened Services as set out below and only to extent allowed below are required to cease all activities at facilities located within Jim Wells County. Reopened Services are retail services as described in Texas Governor Executive Order GA- 16 and future orders. Effective 12:01 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020 retail services that are not "essential services" may operate to the extent that services are provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with the terms required by DSHS. The DSHS requirements may be found at [www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus). For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own

residences (i.e. working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated in its entirety, including maintaining six (6) feet social distancing for both employees and the general public.

- c) All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
- d) Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and microbreweries, and micro-distilleries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services in such manner consistent with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's waiver.
- e) The Governor, County Judge, and Mayors all recognize that religious and worship services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship are considered Essential Services. Pursuant to Governor's Order all "services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19".
- f) All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures are prohibited anywhere in Jim Wells County, except as otherwise permitted under Texas Governor Executive Order GA- 15. Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental offices, and other medical facilities are directed to identify procedures that are deemed "Elective" by assessing which procedures can be postponed or cancelled based on patient risk considering the emergency need for redirection of resources to COVID-19 response. Governor Executive Order GA-15 provides that surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without timely performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient's physician should be postponed. However, this prohibition does not apply to the following: (1) any procedure that, if performed in accordance with the commonly accepted standard of clinical practice, would not deplete the hospital capacity or the personal protective equipment needed to cope with the COVID19 disaster; or (2) any surgery or procedure performed in a licensed health care facility that has certified in writing to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission both that it will reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients, accounting for the range of clinical severity of COVID-19 patients;

and that will not request personal protective equipment from any public source for the duration of the COVID- 19 disaster.

- g) In accordance with GA-16 Order people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios or cosmetology salons, provided however that the use of drive-thru. or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed.

2. Definitions:

- a. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities":
  - i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).
  - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.)
  - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with the social distancing requirement of six (6) feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, fishing, running, boating or hunting). All city and county public parks within the geographic boundaries of Jim Wells County are open for regular hours of operation.
  - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
  - v. To care for a family member(s) or a pet (or pets) in another household.
- b. For purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" means:
  - i. Essential Healthcare Operations. Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, physical therapy, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare

operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

- ii. **Essential Government Functions.** All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public, including any local government entities that are required by law to furnish medical and hospital care for the indigent and needy persons residing in the County. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Government Functions." All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six (6) feet, to the extent possible.
- iii. **Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of any of the sixteen (16) critical infrastructure sectors, including suppliers and distributors, as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency including the list by the U S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0 or any subsequent version (including, but not limited to the following sectors: chemical, commercial facilities, communications, critical manufacturing, dams, defense industrial base, emergency services, energy, financial services, food & agriculture, government facilities, healthcare & public health, information technology, nuclear reactors, materials & waste, transportation systems, water & wastewater systems, public works construction, residential and commercial construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil and gas industry, crude oil storage and transport facilities, refining processes, oil and gas/industry disposal facilities, roads and highways, public transportation, automobile repair, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision Of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, bail bond sureties, defense and national security-related operations, warehouses, essential manufacturing operations, provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirement of six (6) feet, to the extent possible. Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached Essential Businesses also include businesses that supply Essential Businesses with the services, support, storage, repairs, equipment or supplies necessary or useful to

operate or function effectively. Essential Businesses also include private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;

- iv. **Essential Retail. A. Food service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers' markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities and conveyances that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, drive-thru or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or member of the public on a delivery or pick-up and take-away basis only. The restriction of delivery or carry out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers. Gas Stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, landscaping, and related facilities. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.**
- v. **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations. Business that provide food shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.**
- vi. **Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses. Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries, hotels and motels, recreational vehicles parks, and public storage facilities. Plumbers, electricians, roofers, exterminators, air conditioner repair, appliance repair, equipment repair, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as insurance, title, real estate, legal or accounting services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated, prohibited, or necessary activities, including the entry of contracts for Essential Businesses or support thereof. Automobile, large truck, and RV dealerships (sales and services centers) in support of transportation. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate.**

- vii. News Media. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.
  - viii. Childcare Services. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.
  - ix. Other Essential Services. Services as maybe outlined in Texas Governor Executive Order GA-16 and any future Executive Order or proclamation and as maybe added upon request and approval by Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).
3. Any manufacturer who retools so that a substantial part of their business is for the purpose of manufacturing and producing personal protective equipment may apply for an "essential business" exemption under this Order. Application for exemption shall be made with the County Judge.
  4. Due to the public health emergency, the Office of the Jim Wells County Judge hereby advises the Jim Wells County Justices of the Peace to suspend eviction hearing and writs of possession until at least May 30, 2020 prevent renters from being displaced, except as otherwise authorized by the Texas Supreme Court Order of March 19, 2020. Moreover, as authorized by the issuing court the Office of the Jim Wells County Judge hereby advises the Jim Wells County Sheriff to suspend all extraditions until at least May 30, 2020, to further deter the spread of the virus.
  5. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home for a period of at least 14 days after the person has tested negative for coronavirus or left the household or such longer period as determined by DSHS. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function.
  6. Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
  7. Additionally, the Office of the Jim Wells County Judge instructs all employees to remain at home if sick, and to promptly communicate with an appropriate health care professional.
  8. This Order shall be effective immediately and continues until 11:59 p.m. on May 11, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
  9. The County of Jim Wells must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Jim Wells County website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a

decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

10. All typical routes of ingress and egress (roads and streets, county roads, state and other highways, Interstate highways) throughout Jim Wells County (including all of Jim Wells County's incorporated and unincorporated areas) shall remain open and accessible, except to the extent specifically limited by the sections of this Order to Stay at Home.
11. This Order of County Judge Juan Rodriguez, Jr. applies to all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Jim Wells County. To the extent of a conflict between decisions of Jim Wells County Judge Juan Rodriguez, Jr. and a mayor of any city within the geographic boundaries of Jim Wells County, the decisions set forth in this Order prevail to the fullest extent allowed by law pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(h).
12. A violation of this Order to Stay at Home is a violation of the emergency management plans of Jim Wells County. A violation by any person of any provision of this Order to Stay at Home is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation and separate day of violation, and additional amount as authorized by law. A second offense after warning in which intent to commit all elements of an act prohibited herein is proven may result in a fine of up to \$ 1,000 per violation or separate day of violation or up to 180 days in jail.

Signed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
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Juan Rodriguez, Jr., County Judge

ATTEST:

  
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J.C. Perez, III, County Clerk

