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**ELOY VERA** 

Starr County Judge

BY: DEPUTY

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## FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER WITH MANDATORY COUNTYWIDE STAY AT HOME/STAY SAFE

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the National Emergency Declaration issued by President Trump and Governor Abbott's Declaration of Disaster on March 13, 2020, and out of an abundance of caution to limit or reduce the spread of COVID-19 to Starr County;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible;

WHEREAS, despite the current state of public health crisis, people will need to leave self-isolation to obtain or perform vital services or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life. As such, persons should at all times as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined by the Centers for Disease Control;

WHEREAS, the County Judge has consulted with the Starr County Health Authority, the Mayors and School Board Superintendents, including independent schools' leadership, of each city within Starr County, and state health officials;

THEREFORE, the County Judge in his authority pursuant to the Texas Government Code § 418 et seq. hereby issues the following Fourth Supplemental Emergency Management Order with Mandatory Countywide STAY AT HOME in his capacity as Starr County Judge with the advice and consent of Commissioners Court;

# FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES AN IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH:

#### STAY AT HOME

Except as otherwise directed in this order, all individuals currently living within Starr County, Texas SHALL SHELTER AT THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR A PERIOD OF 14 DAYS. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes as expressly permitted herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence, which includes hotels, motels, shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities.

Except as otherwise directed in this order, all employees of Starr County who do not reside in Starr County are **ORDERED** to shelter in their place of residence.

To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

The STAY AT HOME mandate does not apply to the person(s) engaging in the following activities:

## 1) Essential Personal Activities

- a) "Essential Personal Activities" means:
  - 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 (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;
  - ii) To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family, household members, and pets, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet food and supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, 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 Social Distancing Requirements, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, biking, or running;
  - iv) To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations; and/or
  - v) "Minimum basic operations" means operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).
  - vi) To care for a family member or pet in another household.

## 2) Obtaining Healthcare Operation Services

- a) "Healthcare Operations" means:
  - i) A health care provider or facility including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services, and veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals.
  - ii) "Healthcare Operations" does not include fitness and exercise gyms or similar operations/facilities, nor does it include Adult Daycare Centers or similar operations.

## 3) Performing Essential Infrastructure Operations

- a) "Essential Infrastructure Operations" means:
  - i) any services or performance work necessary to the operations and maintenance of

public works construction, construction of housing, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems and support (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

- ii) To the extent possible, such operations and operators shall carry out those services or work, in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements.
- iii) Transportation, maintenance, repairs of all transportation related equipment including but not limited to vehicles.

## 4) Performing or Accessing Essential Governmental Functions

- a) "Essential Government Functions" means:
  - i) duties, operations, or functions performed by:
    - (1) First responders,
    - (2) Emergency management personnel,
    - (3) Emergency dispatchers,
    - (4) The Starr County Attorney, his assistants, and staff,
    - (5) The Starr County District Attorney, his assistants, and staff,
    - (6) Court personnel,
    - (7) Law enforcement personnel,
    - (8) School Personnel to include and limited to essential staff as identified by individual school systems. Said person(s) are authorized to leave their residence for the purpose of carrying out established protocols.
    - (9) Families of school aged children for the limited purpose of obtaining meal and instructional packets for their children from their local school systems; and
    - (10) Others who the County Judge deems necessary to perform essential services.
- b) Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions.
- c) All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible.

## 5) To Operate Essential Businesses

- a) "Essential Businesses" means and/or includes:
  - i) Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure Operations;
  - ii) (A) Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet food and supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non- grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences; To the greatest extent possible, essential ALL retail establishments shall adhere to the following guidelines:
    - (1) Designate shopping times for at risk individuals;
    - (2) Limit the amount of people in a store at once so that social distancing is

- possible;
- (3) Implement an organized system where people are spaced ideally 6 feet apart;
- (4) Implement purchase limits on high-demand items (toilet paper, soap, hand sanitizer);
- (5) Offer pick up or deliveries of grocery items and, if delivering, limiting entering residence upon deliveries to the greatest extent possible
- (6) Ensure that all employees and customers cover their nose and mouth with a mask or any form of cloth at all times

## (B) Certain Stores that sell Groceries and Other Essential Supplies:

- (1) Grocery stores, supermarkets, big-box stores, food banks and other establishments engaged in the retail sales occupying 15,000 square feet or less of commercial space that does not include fresh produce or a meat market for example, but not limited, to Discount Stores (i.e. Dollar General, Family Dollar, Dollar Tree, El Mercadito, etc.) are hereby ordered to allow no more than 10 persons, not including employees, to be present in a single space and to implement an organized system where people are spaced ideally 6 feet apart to provide for adequate social distancing.
- (2) Convenience Stores (i.e. El Tigere, Stripes, etc.) may remain open and hereby ordered to allow no more than 10 people present in a single space, not including employees, and to implement an organized system where people are spaced ideally 6 feet apart to provide for adequate social distancing.
- iii) Agriculture, food, and beverage cultivation, processing, and distribution, including but not limited to, farming, ranching, fishing, dairies, creameries, distilleries and breweries in order to preserve inventory and production (not for retail business);
- iv) Businesses that are necessary to supply agriculture, food, and beverage cultivation, processing, and distribution;
- v) Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- vi) Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- vii) Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- viii) Banks, insurance, payroll, accounting, bail bondsmen and services related to financial markets;
- ix) Hardware stores;
  - x) Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, HVAC repairs and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Personal Activities, and Essential Businesses;
  - xi) Landscaping and pool cleaning services;
- xii) Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xiii) Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;

- xiv) Restaurants and other related facilities are subject to the following restrictions:
  - (1) Must ensure that all employees cover their nose and mouth with a mask of any form of cloth and wear gloves at all times;
  - (2) May only prepare and serve food for drive-thru, delivery, or carry out and close no later than 10:00pm;;
  - (3) Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that all parties involved in preparation or distribution of food wear face coverings and gloves, that the food is provided on a pick-up and take-away basis only and that that the food is not allowed to be eaten on site:
  - (4) May not permit the same employees or volunteer who prepare or serve food to handle money.
- xv) Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xvi) Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xvii) Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xviii) Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation for hire that provide transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xix) Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xx) Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xxi) Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- xxii) Funeral homes;
- xxiii) Religious and worship Offices; Religious and worship must follow certain mitigation strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as:
  - (1) Whenever possible should employ technology such as remote audio or video service or teleconference to provide service and activities Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to six (6) people or less when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines including the six foot social distancing.
  - (2) If a house of worship cannot conduct its activities remotely, then the White House and CDC guidelines still control in order to stop the spread of Coronavirus. Which means, they must follow these guidelines:
    - a) All Participants MUST wear face coverings at ALL times
    - b) Instruct sick employees, volunteers, and guests to stay home;
    - c) Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between people;
    - d) Maintain good hygiene by washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, avoid personal contact, and not touching your face;
    - e) Clean and disinfect work areas frequently.
  - (3) Some houses of worship must avoid large gatherings. More detailed guidance from the CDC currently recommends that if a community is experiencing substantial community spread of COVID-19, then the houses of worship in that community should cancel all in-person gatherings of any size. But if a community

- is experiencing moderate to substantial spread, then the CDC recommends a reduction of activities in coordination with local health officials, smaller gatherings incorporating social-distancing measures, or cancelation of activities with 10 or more.
- (4) These restrictions do not violate the religious liberty of houses of worship. Under the extraordinary circumstances in which we temporarily live, these restrictions do not violate the religious liberty of houses of worship because the government has a compelling interest for implementing the rules(stopping contagion) and the rules are the least restrictive means of burdening religious practice (they allow houses of worship to stay open for ministry, but suggest ways that help stop the spread of COVID-19) Texas AG Guidance for Houses of Worship
- xxiv) Pawnshops
- xxv) Liquor Stores will follow the "Retail to Go" model approach for sales.
- when necessary and cannot meet the standards of "Retail To Go" set up a person to person appointment with no more than 2-4 clients in the premises at a time to execute necessary financing documents for essential purchases (i.e. stove, refrigerator, etc.) Such business will be required to have employees and customers wear face coverings, gloves, properly disinfect all common areas after visits and adhere to having all people spaced ideally 6 feet apart to provide for adequate social distancing.
- xxvii) Car Washes (Automatic and Hand Wash) MAY continue to operate. Furthermore Hand Car Washes MAY ONLY OPERATE, preferably by appointment, provided that they limit to no more than five (5) people, including employees, at a time and SHALL be required to have employees wear face coverings, gloves, properly disinfect all common areas and vehicles after visits and adhere to having all people spaced ideally 6 feet apart, whenever practical, to provide for adequate social distancing. Customers should prepay and will BE REQUIRED to drop off vehicle for service. If interior cleaning is required ONLY one employee shall be responsible for providing this service and said employee MUST wear face coverings and a new set of gloves with each new interior cleaning service.
- b) EXCEPT FOR ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES, ALL OPERATING BUSINESSES LOCATED WITHIN, OR USING A FACILITY IN STARR COUNTY SHALL CEASE ALL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN MINIMUM BASIC OPERATIONS.
- c) For the purposes of this Order, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
- i) The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

All School districts are hereby directed to adopt meal and instructional packet distribution protocols to be implemented simultaneously to minimize the need for families to leave their residence on multiple occasions.

People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. For purposes of this Order, "people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19" are people who meet the CDC definition of higher risk.

All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements including customers standing in line.

## 6) Businesses that are Explicitly Closed

- (1) Child Care Centers
- (2) Adult daycare facilities (limited to the actual building and premises where clients may not congregate; businesses may continue to provide medical services and/or food services at the client's home as permitted by any applicable state or federal regulations)
- (3) Gyms and fitness centers, and
- (4) Businesses that operate coin operated amusement machines, and
- (5) Nail Salons
- (6) Barbershops
- (7) Beauty Salons
- (8)Tattoo Shops

#### RETAIL TO GO ORDER

Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, retail services that are not "essential services," but that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with the terms required by DSHS **SHALL** only be permitted to operate in a "Retail to Go" Model'. DSHS requirements may be found at <a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus">www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus</a>.

In particular, all such services should be provided through remote telework from home, preferably by appointment, unless they cannot be provided through remote telework. Any Reopened Retail Business **SHALL** submit a Notice of Work Safe ReOpening to the Starr County Planning Department, be required to have employees wear face coverings, gloves, properly disinfect all common areas and adhere to having all people spaced ideally 6 feet apart to provide for adequate social distancing.

#### THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

ALL employees returning to a Reopened Business SHALL be screened daily prior to entry for new or worsening cough; shortness of breath; sore throat; loss of taste or smell; feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit; or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Any employee who meets any of these criteria SHALL be sent home. In addition, ALL employees must wash or sanitize hands upon entering the business, after each interaction with a customer, and MUST disinfect any item that came into contact with the customer.

be minimized if remote payment is not available. Customer MAY choose their option for delivery, but WILL NOT BE PERMITTED to enter any non-essential retail establishment, under ANY circumstances.

## THE FOLLOWING DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR PURCHASES WILL BE ALLOWED:

#### Curbside Pickup:

**ALL** Purchased items **SHALL** be delivered by an employee to the backseat or preferably to the trunk of a customer's vehicle whenever possible, to minimize physical contact with the customer.

#### **Home Delivery:**

**ALL** Purchased items should be delivered by an employee or third party carrier and delivered to the customer's doorstep. The employee or third-party carrier **MAY NOT** enter the customer's house or business.

#### **Delivery By Mail:**

**ALL** payments must be done over the phone or internet and purchased items should be delivered by mail without customer contact. The customer **SHOULD** wash or sanitize their hands after the transaction and dispose of packages and packing material, accordingly.

This guidance is intended for employers, employees, and customers of retail businesses reopening under the Governor's Executive Order issued on April 17, 2020 and **DOES NOT** apply to businesses considered essential, This guidance for reopened services should strictly follow all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requiring the practicing of good hygiene, environmental cleanliness and sanitation, implementing social distancing and working from home if possible.

## **ESSENTIAL TRAVEL**

All travel is prohibited except for Essential Travel that is identified herein:

- 1) This Order allows travel into or out of the County to perform Essential Personal Activities, Healthcare Operations, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions and Essential Infrastructure Operations.
  - a) Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel shall comply with all Social Distancing Requirements.
    - i) "Essential Travel" includes travel for any of the following purposes:
      - (1) Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Personal Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations;
      - (2) Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons;
      - (3) Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for

- distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services;
- (4) Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction;
- (5) Travel required by law enforcement or court order; and
- (6) Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the County remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.
- b) Public Transit:
  - i) Public Transit may only be used for purposes of performing:
    - (1) Essential Personal Activities; or
    - (2) To travel to and from work
      - (a) To operate Essential Businesses; or
      - (b) Maintain Essential Governmental.
  - ii) To the greatest extent feasible people riding on public transit shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements.
    - (1) "Social Distancing Requirements" means:
      - (a) includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals;
      - (b) washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer;
      - (c) covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces; and
      - (d) not shaking hands.

## PRICE CONTROLS

A person and/or business shall not sell any goods or service, including but not limited to the following, for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services on March 28, 2020:

- a. groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice
- b. construction and building materials and supplies, and earthmoving equipment and machinery
- c. electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, party and accessories
- d. charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns
- e. hand tools (manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental
- f. automotive parts, supplies, and accessories
- g. plumbing and electrical tools and supplies
- h. apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental
- i. gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants
- j. restaurant, cafeteria, and boarding-house meals
- k. services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies
- 1. medicine, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment and supplies
- m. blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed linens, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsteads, towels, and toilet paper
- n. furniture and clothing

## WAIVER OF FEES/DEADLINES/EVICTIONS AND FORCLOSURES

- All fees and service charges associated with telephonic or distance payments to Starr County offices and/or departments are hereby waived.
- b. All deadlines imposed by local law, rule or other regulation shall be suspended for thirty (30) days.
- c. To the extent allowed by law and in accordance with the orders issued by the Texas Supreme Court, no trial, hearings or other proceedings may be had by landlords attempting to evict a tenant for lack of payment for the next thirty (30) days.
- d. To the extent allowed by law, all foreclosure proceedings within Starr County shall be temporarily suspended for the next thirty (30) days to prevent the displacement of occupants during this public health emergency.

## SELF QUARANTINE ORDER

1. Any person, including international travelers (including Mexico), unless traveling in connection with employment, commercial activity, military service, emergency or health response or critical-infrastructure functions, as may be determined by the Emergency Management Coordinator who enters the County of Starr from **OUTSIDE** the Rio Grande Valley (defined as Willacy County, Cameron County, Hidalgo County and Zapata County) shall be subject to a mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Starr County, Texas or the duration of the person's presence in Starr County, Texas, whichever is shorter.

This order to self-quarantine **DOES NOT** apply to U.S. Citizens and lawful permanent residents that travel to any US/ Mexico Border Community that does not exceed a 20 mile radius along Starr County (i.e. Camargo or Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, etc.) for a period of less than 24 hours for medical purposes, to purchase food or goods or to attend educational institutions.

2. Each person covered by this order to self-quarantine shall be responsible for all associated costs, including transportation, lodging, food, and medical care.

## ISOLATION OF VULNERABLE POPULATION

- 1. To the extent possible, vulnerable populations should be isolated within their homes and limit their exposure to those leaving their shelter for work or for essential travel.
- 2. The CDC lists the following groups as vulnerable populations considered at higher risk for severe illness:

- a. People age 65 years or older.
- b. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- c. People who have serious heart conditions
- d. People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment
- e. People of any age with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] ≥40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease might also be at risk

### PROTOCALS FOR REPORTING COVID-19 POSTIVE TEST RESULTS

The established protocols are intended to secure an expedited and effective reporting process that will prevent detrimental communication lapses. Furthermore, the County of Starr or the Starr County Health Authority will be held harmless for any breaches in the mandated process.

- 1. Any public or private Labs reviewing submitted samples from Starr County is HEREBY ORDERED to notify the following entities and agencies of positive results discovered in the County of Starr:
  - a. Primary Care Physician of said patient(s).
  - b. Texas Department of State Health Services.
  - c. Starr County Health Authority
- 2. As a result of the overwhelming amount of cases and limited resources faced by the Texas Department of State Health Services in response to the COVID-19 virus, all Prescribing Providers receiving positive test results of any resident of Starr County are HEREBY ORDERED to notify the following entities and agencies of such results:
  - a. Inform said patient(s) of positive test result.
  - b. Inform the Texas Department of State Health Services.
  - c. Inform the Starr County Health Authority
  - d. Required to follow up with the patient(s) about clinical conditions as well as to provide them with instructions on mandatory two (2) week quarantine.
  - e. Strongly recommended when possible to evaluate patient(s) close contacts to determine if further testing is necessary within the household or place of employment.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL ORDER

If a member of a household has been instructed by their medical provider to isolate themselves at home pending confirmation of a test result, then all members of the household must isolate at home. **UPON CONFIMATION** of a novel coronavirus disease, known as COVID-19 based on the reputable testing by a qualified laboratory, if it is then found that, there is reasonable cause to believe that an individual may pose a risk to expose the community to a communicable disease:

novel coronavirus disease, known as COVID-19.

THEREAFTER the local health department and/or the INDIVIDUAL(S)'s Primary Physician, and/or the Department of State Health Services is to then possibly:

- 1. Order that a confirmed individual and all household members remain at a location (which may include the individuals Residence) or cooperate with and be transported to and then remain at a Hospital or another appropriate facility (Facility) as determined by the Department of State Health Services. The INDIVIDUAL(S) will NOT be permitted to leave the Residence, Hospital, or Facility for any reason other than to seek medical evaluation or care, and must first contact the local health department to obtain approval before leaving the premises.
- 2. No one will be permitted any visitors at the Residence, Hospital, or Facility without the prior approval of either the local health department and/or the INDIVIDUAL's Primary Physician, and/or the Department of State Health Services.
- 3. The INDIVIDUAL(S) will be monitored by public health personnel at least once a day for 14 days following the last potential exposure to COVID-19. A public health worker will monitor the temperature and check for symptoms, such as fever (measured ≥100°F or subjective), chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, abdominal pain/discomfort, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting. This monitoring may also be conducted/assisted by local law enforcement if the necessity arises, all the while continuing to maintain all federal Privacy Laws.
- 4. Failure to comply with these control measures you may be subject the INDIVIDUAL(S) to criminal prosecution under Texas Health and Safety Code §81.087, or civil court proceedings under Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 81, Subchapter G, entitled "Court Orders for Management of Persons with Communicable Diseases."

This Order will remain in effect until the INDIVIDUAL(S) is notified in writing that (1) the incubation period has passed and they are no longer suspected of having the above-stated communicable disease; or (2) you are otherwise notified by the Department of State Health Services.

#### STARR COUNTY MANDATORY MASK ORDER

Covering of Nose and Mouth. Except as provided herein, all persons over the age of five (5) are required to wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when: in public; when using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares; or when pumping gas. This Section shall not apply to persons that are: engaging in a permissible outside physical activity provided they are practicing social distancing; that are within the same household and riding in a personal vehicle; that are alone in a separate single space; that are with their own shelter group (household members); when doing so poses a greater health,

are with their own shelter group (household members); when doing so poses a greater health, safety or security risk; or for consumption purposes. The penalty for a violation of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

## **INCORPORATION AND CONFLICTS**

This Order is issued in accordance with, and incorporates by reference, the National Emergency Declaration, Governor Abbott's Declaration of Disaster, the Starr County Disaster Declaration, the Emergency Management Orders and Recommendations and all subsequent related orders and guidance from these authorities. This Order is a supplement to all previous orders and not in place of such. In the event of a conflict or apparent conflict between the orders, this Order shall control.

This Order comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Starr County Health Authority, the Texas Department of Health Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, including a variety of prior orders to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The Starr County Health Authority and Starr County Judge, in consultation and communication with the Starr County Commissioners Court, other local elected leaders, and will continue to assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Order, or issue additional Orders, related to COVID-19 as may be necessary.

If any provision of this Order to the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

#### **ENFORCEMENT**

Violation of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. The Sheriff, Constables and all Chiefs of police in the County and command staffs of State Law Enforcement Agencies Operating in the County are hereby requested to assist to ensure compliance with and enforce this Order.

#### **PENALTIES**

A person that fails to comply with this Order may be assessed a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per violation or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days in jail. This does not limit or curtail additional civil or criminal penalties under the Texas Health and Safety Code or the Texas Penal Code.

This Amended Order shall become effective at 5:00 pm on April 21, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until 11:59pm on May 4, 2020, or until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Starr County Judge.

ORDERED this the 21 of April, 2020, in the COUNTY OF STARR, TEXAS, in witness whereof

Starr County Judge

Filed with me, the County Clerk of Starr County, this the 2/ day of April, 2020, by Judge Eloy Vera, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand the seal of Starr County.

Humberto "Bert" Gonzalez, Jr.

Starr County Clerk