

STAY HOME – WORK SAFE

ORDER

BY

THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY

County Judge Order No. 2020-7: Relating to the Declaration regarding COVID-19

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt to allow the County of Travis (“County” or “Travis County”), Texas to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Travis County residents; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommended that organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States; and

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, President 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; and

Whereas, on March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA 08 Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation stating people shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and closed all schools until April 3, 2020; and

Whereas, on March 20, 2020 and on March 21, 2020, due to the substantial risks to the public, the County Judge issued orders deeming it in the public interest to prohibit anywhere in Travis County, Social Gatherings of more than 10 people; to prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people for other than social purposes, unless social distancing could be maintained and controlled and to identify critical infrastructure; and

Whereas, on March 24, 2020, based in part on credible modeling by University of Texas at Austin that further restriction of movement of persons is necessary to reduce the substantial risk of harm to the public, the County Judge issued Order 2020-5, more commonly known as the “Stay Home - Work Safe Order,” requiring all individuals in Travis County to stay home or in their place of residence except to perform certain essential activities, or to perform work in or obtain service from an Essential Business, Essential Government Service, or in Critical Infrastructure; and.

Whereas, on March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-14 (“Governor’s Order GA-14”) relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster, which provides a uniform statewide approach to certain restrictions and permitted activities, and allows local jurisdictions to enforce the Executive Order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with the Governor’s Order; and

Whereas, Governor’s Order GA-14’s protocols allow exceptions for essential activities and services based on the Department of Homeland Security’s guidelines on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce; and

Whereas, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has recommended that individuals wear facial coverings to help prevent individuals from infecting others; and

Whereas, on April 6, 2020, in accordance with the CDC and Austin/Travis County Health Authority recommendations, the Travis County Judge and Mayor of the City of Austin issued guidance that wearing a fabric face mask outside one’s residence is recommended with certain specific exceptions; and

Whereas, recent public and private testing of individuals for COVID-19 has provided additional data evidencing the continued need to mitigate the surge spread of the virus in the County and need for compliance with this Order; and

Whereas, in order to continue slowing the rate and number of people infected with COVID-19, further restriction of movement of persons is necessary to reduce the substantial risk of harm to the public and, therefore, as long as this Order is in effect, all individuals anywhere in the County of Travis are required to stay at home or their place of residence except as allowed by this Order for Essential Services and Essential Activities, to work in or access Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service, or in Critical Infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

SECTION 1. Stay at Home or Place of Residence. All individuals currently living within Travis County, including but not limited to all of the cities and municipalities within the boundaries of Travis County and specifically listed in Exhibit A, are ORDERED to stay at home or at their place of residence, to practice Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements as defined in Section 1(a) and (b) and Exhibit D, unless excepted by this Order. Subject to the requirements of this Order, all persons may leave their residences only for Essential Services and Essential Activities, or to work in or access Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service, or Critical Infrastructure, or to perform Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section 6 below. The County Judge deems it is in the public interest to issue this Order, effective as of 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2020, unless terminated or modified by a subsequent order. While violation of this requirement is a criminal offense, enforcement of this provision is substantially reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public

health and safety under the novel threat of COVID-19. If there is not widespread compliance with this Order, including widespread adoption of face coverings as provided herein, then the County and its municipalities will increase enforcement efforts.

- a. Social Distancing Requirements.** 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 the age of ten (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 and Austin/Travis County Health Authority, Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not into hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.
- b. Face Covering Requirements:** 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. When leaving one's residence, all persons over the age of ten (10) shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief, except when:

 - i.** Alone in a separate single space, whether indoor or outdoor;
 - ii.** In the presence only of other members of one's household or residence whether inside or outside the residence,
 - iii.** When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk,
 - iv.** When engaged in Outdoor Activity as defined by Section 6(b)(iii) below; or
 - v.** For consumption purposes.

Parents and Guardians of children under 10 shall be responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.

All non-residents in nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities shall wear a fabric face covering as provided for in Section 1 (Face Covering Requirements). In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of Exhibit B, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk. See Exhibit D for further Guidance on Face Covering Requirements. **Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.**

SECTION 2. Non-Essential Business and Operations must cease. All businesses or operations with facilities in Travis County, except Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service or Critical Infrastructure are required to cease all activities within the County, except

Minimum Basic Operations as defined below in Section 6. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home/telecommuting).

All **Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service, and Critical Infrastructure** are strongly encouraged to remain open, especially Healthcare Operations and those that provide the basic necessities for food, water, and shelter. To the greatest extent feasible, all Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service, and Critical Infrastructure shall comply with Social Distancing and Facial Covering Requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and Exhibit B and D.

This Order shall not be construed to hinder the ability of the industries identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency's ("CISA") Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum dated March 28, 2020, or as subsequently amended or new memorandum issued by CISA on the same subject, to continue their operation appropriately modified to account for CDC workforce and consumer protection guidance.

SECTION 3. Prohibited Gatherings. All indoor or outdoor public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or residence are prohibited, except for the limited purposes expressly permitted by this Order and subject to Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's residence. Nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities are to prohibit non-critical assistance visitors or providers from accessing their facilities, as determined through the guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

SECTION 4. Essential Travel. All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, boat or public transit is prohibited, except for purposes of providing, obtaining or accessing Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure, or Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. To the greatest extent feasible, people riding on public transit shall comply with Social Distancing and Facial Covering Requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and Exhibits B and D.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, if someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, or is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, the entire household is ORDERED to isolate and not travel outside Travis County until cleared by Austin Public Health or to seek medical attention. Before visiting a healthcare provider or if seeking emergency medical care, you shall notify the healthcare provider or 9-1-1 call taker and first responders at the time of the call that you have tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever.

SECTION 5. Prior Orders. This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference all declarations, findings, and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order. This Order rescinds and replaces prior County Judge Order 2020-5.

SECTION 6. Definitions and Exemptions.

- a. Individuals experiencing homelessness.** Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Order except that, to the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they shall, to the greatest extent feasible, comply with Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and Exhibits B and D.
- b. Essential Activities.** For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following “Essential Activities.”
- i. **For Health and Safety.** 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, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional;
 - ii. **For Necessary Supplies and Services.** To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, including pet supplies and food, supplies they need to work from home, household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
 - iii. **For Outdoor Activity.** To engage in outdoor activity for their personal individual health, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, or running provided that individuals SHALL comply with the Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements set forth in Section 1 and Exhibits B and D. Individuals are excepted from the face covering requirement of Section 1(b) while engaging in outdoor activity if:
 - a) Alone in a separate single outdoor space;
 - b) Individuals not of the same household or residence are maintaining consistent separation of six feet or more while engaging in outdoor activity;
 - c) In the presence of only other members of one’s household and are maintaining consistent separation of six feet or more from people not of one’s household; or
 - d) Doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk, to person or the public.
 - iv. **To Take Care of Others.** To care for a family member or pet in another household, or care for dependents, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons;

- v. **To perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Service, or Critical Infrastructure**, as defined in this Order and in accordance with Governor’s Order GA-14, or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations; or
 - vi. **To return home** from or to another jurisdiction (i.e. returning home from a closing university), and shall comply with Governor’s Order GA-14.
- c. **Essential Government Service.** For purposes of this Order, “Essential Government Service” means all services, including necessary administrative and support services, needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public and all agencies that provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Each government body shall determine its Essential Government Service and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions. To the extent feasible, all Essential Governmental Service shall comply with Social Distancing and Facial Covering Requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and Exhibits B and D. This Order does not apply to the Federal or State Government.

Essential Government Services of Travis County include, but are not limited to, emergency services, including emergency medical services personnel, emergency management personnel and emergency dispatchers; fire and law enforcement personnel; including corrections; public health and medical services, including housing and shelter personnel; transit and transit facilities, transportation services, equipment and facilities; power, water, telecommunications, natural gas, public utilities, janitorial and sanitation services; information technology and communications, including news media and press; public works; all court personnel and court operations, such as community supervision and pre-trial service, clerk, court reporters, child protection and child welfare personnel; critical road, equipment, technology; infrastructure maintenance or repair; and elections personnel and operations.

- d. **Critical Infrastructure:** Critical Infrastructure means all public and private facilities and assets, including both physical and cyber systems, and other functions and sectors vital to the security, governance, public health, safety, and economic sustainability of the County of Travis, and municipalities set forth in Exhibit A; and as set forth in Exhibit C and incorporated to this Order by reference. To the greatest extent feasible, Critical Infrastructure shall comply with Social Distancing and Facial Covering Requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and Exhibits B and D.
- e. **Essential Businesses.** Some but not all of the following Essential Businesses may also be defined elsewhere as Critical Infrastructure. To the greatest extent feasible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing and Facial Covering Requirements as set forth in Section 1 and Exhibit B and D. Further, to the greatest

extent feasible, all Essential Businesses should limit customer and staff gathering and establish sufficient spacing for individuals queuing inside and outside of the business. For the purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means:

- i. **Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare Operations and Critical Infrastructure, includes but is not limited to caregivers, hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health and substance abuse providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, 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; however, elective medical, surgical and dental procedures are prohibited to the extent prohibited in Governor’s Executive Order GA-09. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms, indoor or outdoor recreational clubs or other similar facilities except to the extent that such businesses are able to function under Minimum Basic Operations sponsoring virtual or outdoor fitness activities compliant with the Social Distancing Requirements and Face Covering Requirements of Section 1 and Exhibit B and D. Healthcare Operations do not include retail outlets that specialize in the selling of electronic cigarette products or cannabidiol products;
- ii. **Stores that sell Groceries and Certain Other Essential Supplies.** Grocery stores, supermarkets, big-box stores, farmers’ markets, food banks, convenience stores, liquor stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, 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, Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Government Services. It is strongly recommended that households, to the greatest extent possible, only send one person to businesses for the purpose of picking up food or other essential items;
- iii. **Food Cultivation.** Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
- iv. **Social Services and Charitable Organizations.** Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- v. **News Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other news media services;

- vi. **Fuel Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation.** Fuel stations, automobile dealerships, auto-manufacturing and assembly, auto-supply, auto-repair, and other related facilities; however, does not include marina fuel stations for other than the purpose of fueling public safety boats and equipment and equipment used to support critical infrastructure.
- vii. **Financial Institutions.** Banks and related financial institutions, consumer lenders, sales and finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies;
- viii. **Hardware and Supply Stores.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and other material necessary to support Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Service;
- ix. **Critical Trades.** Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, pool cleaners, laundry, laundromat and other service providers, but only to the extent that services are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, Essential Businesses, Essential Government Services, and Critical Infrastructure, including but not limited to utilities such as electricity, gas, water and wastewater, and other public works. **Critical Trades does not include** services for discretionary maintenance or improvements;
- x. **Mail and Delivery Services.** Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xi. **Educational Institutions.** Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of temporarily closing facilities including dormitories, providing meals for pickup, facilitating distance learning or performing critical research or essential functions;
- xii. **Restaurants for Consumption Off-Premises.** Except for cafes and restaurants located within a hospital or medical facility, restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. 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 the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site.
- xiii. **Supplies to Work from Home.** Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;

- xiv. **Supplies and Service for Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Government Services.** Businesses or services that supply other Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Services with the support or supplies necessary to operate; including but not limited to manufacturing, janitorial services, laundry services, computers, electronics, hardware, paint, electrical and plumbing material, sanitary equipment, medical equipment, food and beverages;
- xv. **Food Delivery Services.** Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xvi. **Transportation.** To the extent authorized in Governor's Order GA-14, Aircraft, taxis, bicycles and other private transportation providers (such as Uber and Lyft) that provide transportation services, or repair and maintenance services, necessary for the performance of Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, Essential Government Service, or Essential Travel;
- xvii. **Home-Based Care and Services.** Home-based care for seniors, adults, children, dependents, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons, including caregivers who may travel to provide care;
- xviii. **Residential Facilities and Shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, children and animals;
- xix. **Licensed Professional Services.** Licensed professional services, such as legal or accounting services, insurances services, and real estate services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities and only to the extent that service can be provided with Minimum Basic Operations as defined below;
- xx. **Information Technology Services/Telecommunications Services.** IT and IT services and their essential services vendors, including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, web-based services, and critical manufacturing, as well as, telecommunications services, internet access and broadband/communications services; and
- xxi. **Childcare Facilities.** Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted and to provide services for children needing protective services. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:

- a) Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of no more than 10 people (“stable” means that the same 10 or fewer children and caregivers are in the same group each day).
 - b) Children shall not change from one group to another.
 - c) If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
 - d) Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.
- xxii. **Moving Supply Services.** Businesses that provide residential and/or commercial moving services and necessary moving supplies; and
- xxiii. **Hotels and Motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging or delivery or carry-out food services; and
- xxiv. **Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, provided that social distancing of six feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible and groups are limited to no more than ten people.
- xxv. **Religious Services.** Religious services conducted in churches, congregations and houses of worship and any other services as approved by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, should be provided by video and teleconference. Institutions must limit in-person staff or volunteers to no more than ten people in the same room when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must adhere to the Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements set forth in Section 1 and Exhibits B and D, including maintaining a minimum distance of six feet between persons. If services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted in accordance with the latest Guidelines from the President and the CDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- xxvi. **Fabric Stores.** Retail stores that sell fabric may allow customers inside the store for the sole purpose of selling fabric and supplies necessary for the creation of fabric face masks.
- f. Minimum Basic Operations.** For the purposes of this Order, “Minimum Basic Operations” include the following, provided that employers and employees comply with the Requirements of Section 1 and Exhibits B and D while carrying out such operations:
- i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; or

- ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees and clients of the business to continue to work and to receive services remotely from their residences.

g. Residences. For purposes of this Order, a residence is a home, dwelling, household, hotel, motel, shared rental unit, and similar facilities.

SECTION 7. The County Judge SUSPENDS all deadlines imposed by local law, rule, or other regulation until May 8, 2020.

SECTION 8. Although enforcement of this Order is partially reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public health and safety under the novel threat of COVID-19, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office, and other peace officers are hereby authorized to use their discretion in enforcing this Order. A violation of this Order may be punishable through criminal or civil enforcement. A criminal violation of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement. A criminal violation of this Order may be enforced by the filing of a probable cause affidavit alleging the violation with the appropriate court or by issuing a citation to the person violating, that contains written notice of the time and place the person must appear before a magistrate of this state, the name and address of the person charged, and the offense charged.

SECTION 9. The Austin Public Health Department and the Travis County Clerk will post this Order on their websites. 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 remainder of this Order and its application.

SECTION 10. Savings Clause. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then 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.

SECTION 11. This Order incorporates by reference the following:

Exhibit A: List of Cities and Municipalities within Travis County Jurisdiction Covered by this Order

Exhibit B: Recommendations and Requirements by the Austin Travis/ County Health Authority

Exhibit C: Critical Infrastructure and Essential Services, Definition and Obligations

Exhibit D: Face Covering Requirements

ORDERED this the 13th day of April, 2020, in the County of Travis, Texas.



County Judge
County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Clerk of Travis County, this 13th day of April, 2020.

Dana, DeBeauvoir, County Clerk

**Exhibit A: List of Cities and Municipalities within Travis County
Jurisdiction covered by the Order**

- City of Austin
- City of Bee Cave
- City of Cedar Park
- City of Creedmoor
- City of Elgin
- City of Jonestown
- City of Lago Vista
- City of Lakeway
- City of Leander
- City of Manor
- City of Mustang Ridge
- City of Pflugerville
- City of Rollingwood
- City of Round Rock
- City of Sunset Valley
- City of West Lake Hills
- Village of Briarcliff
- Village of Point Venture
- Village of San Leanna
- Village of The Hills
- Village of Volente
- Village of Webberville

**Exhibit B: Austin/Travis County Health Authority
Requirements and Recommendations
for Individuals, Families and Businesses**

I. Individuals

A. COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and Untested Individuals with cough and/or fever shall be:

- i. Prohibited from leaving residence without a mask, or fabric face covering to prevent the spread to others.
- ii. Permitted while wearing a mask or fabric face covering to:
 - a. Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, you shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 911 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that you have tested positive for COVID-19, or been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever.
 - b. Walk or exercising alone in the immediate vicinity of your residence.
- iii. Prohibited from leaving Travis County without prior notification to Austin Public Health.
- iv. Practicing Social Distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- v. Notifying Austin Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom).
- vi. Notifying Austin Public Health if a member of your household is over the age of 60 and/or if they have underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC of increasing the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- vii. Remaining in home quarantine for no less than 7 days following the onset of their illness and at least three days (72 hours) after the conclusion of their illness (resolution of fever without medications and improvement in cough and shortness of breath), whichever is longer.

B. Household Members of COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, or Untested Individuals with cough and/or fever shall be:

- i. Prohibited from leaving residence without a surgical or similar mask, or fabric face covering to prevent the spread to others.

- ii. Permitted while wearing a mask or fabric face covering to:
 - a. Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, you shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 911 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that you have been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever.
 - b. Walk or exercise alone in the immediate vicinity of your residence.
- iii. Prohibited from leaving Travis County without prior notification to Austin Public Health at APH.Preparedness@austintexas.gov.
- iv. Practicing social distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- v. Notifying Austin Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom).
- vi. Notifying Austin Public Health or your Primary Care Provider if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as defined by the CDC.
- vii. Remaining in home quarantine for no less than 14 days following the last exposure to individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

C. Individuals Employed in Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure or Essential Business should refrain from reporting to work when falling within any of the following criteria:

- i. Has signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, diarrhea, or change in smell or taste;
- ii. Has a fever greater than 99.6°F;
- iii. In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and did not have the appropriate personal protective equipment designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness; or
- iv. Has traveled to an area the World Health Organization or CDC considers a “Hotspot.”

If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, or is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, and a member of the household is an employee of an Essential Business, Government Service or Critical Infrastructure, an exception may be made by Austin Travis County Public Health allowing that member of the household to voluntarily return to work after finding the risk of reduced essential services is greater than the risk of infection.

D. Vulnerable Populations

- i. Vulnerable populations include people who:
 - a. Are 60 years old and older; or
 - b. Have certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDs), and weakened immune systems.
- ii. Vulnerable Individuals shall:
 - a. Avoid group gatherings unless it is essential.
 - b. Telecommute.
 - c. Avoid people who are sick.
 - d. Wear a mask or fabric face covering at all times when in public.

E. Individual Gatherings

- i. All non-essential indoor or outdoor gatherings of any number of people outside of a single household or dwelling shall be cancelled or postponed.
- ii. Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- iii. For household gatherings:
 - a. Have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available;
 - b. Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops doorknobs, and handrails; and
 - c. Find ways to create physical space (minimum of six (6) feet distance between people) to minimize close contact as much as possible.

F. Schools and Daycare. To the extent that schools and daycare are open under current orders:

- i. Do not have your child attend school or daycare if sick.
- ii. If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school and daycare attendance.

- iii. Frequent re-education of students and staff regarding Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements and ensuring that appropriate signs are posted.
- iv. Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.

II. Non-essential Business shall cease to the extent that it cannot function under Minimum Basic Operations as defined in Section 6(f) of the Order.

III. Essential Business, Critical Infrastructure or Government Service as defined in Section 6 of the Order and Exhibit C shall comply with the following:

- A.** Employees include public and private employers located and operating in and around Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Business. To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, employers shall only adhere to the recommendations described in this Order to determine risk of COVID-19. Employers should contact their own human resources advisors and shall not make determinations of risk based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, familial status, disability, marital status, student status, creed, national origin. To the extent possible, employers should maintain confidentiality of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- B.** Employers shall only allow persons in and around Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Business that are: (1) essential employees not subject to any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit, (2) customers or members of the public to the extent feasible while complying with Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements of Section 1 of the Order, and (3) persons with legal authority to enter such as law enforcement.
- C.** Prior to allowing employees into its facility, employers shall ask all employees if they meet any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit, and shall direct employees to return home or other appropriate shelter and services if the employee is exhibiting symptoms and presenting a threat of infecting others.
- D.** Employers shall immediately separate an employee who becomes sick or demonstrates a temperature greater than 99.6°F while at work from other employees and send that employee home or to other appropriate shelter and services
- E.** Human resources departments shall create alternate work plans to help employees remain productive while keeping the workforce safe and healthy.
- F.** Employers are strongly encouraged to require employees (either those exhibiting symptoms or all employees) to undergo a COVID-19 symptom check and non-invasive temperature readings prior to entering a worksite; however, **employers are not mandated to take the temperature of employees prior to entrance to its worksite.** If the employers does take employees' temperatures and/or has first-hand knowledge that the employee's temperature exceeds 99.6°F, then the employer shall prohibit the employee from entering the facility or property.

- G.** Employers shall create and implement an infectious disease response plan.
- H.** Further, where appropriate, employers shall:
- i. Suspend nonessential employee travel.
 - ii. Prohibit employees working within six (6) feet of one another unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services.
 - iii. Minimize or cancel in-person meetings and conferences including canceling, postponing or moving to on-line formats for all indoor or outdoor gatherings of any number of people.
 - iv. Require employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
 - v. Permit sick employees to stay home without providing a doctor's note.
 - vi. Utilize telecommuting options to minimize person-to-person interaction.
 - vii. Alter, stagger or otherwise schedule or separate employees or teams of employees so not all employees are present at one time but are present at alternative days and times, unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services.
 - viii. Limit or restrict the number of customers or visitors permitted in a workplace at one time.
 - ix. Ensure that individuals (employees and clients) queuing inside and outside of the business or workplace can maintain six (6) feet of separation.
 - x. Designate special separate shopping times for high-risk clients as designated by the CDC.
 - xi. Increase the use and capability of on-line, drive-thru, curbside, or delivery services.
 - xii. Provide hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues.
 - xiii. Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails with CDC recommended surface cleaners for COVID-19.
 - xiv. Shall ensure compliance with Face Covering Requirements in Exhibit D of the Order.

Exhibit C - Critical Infrastructure & Essential Services

Overlap exists among Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Business. Some enterprises may fall entirely or partially in more than one of the above categories.

1. “**Critical Infrastructure**” is defined as all public and private facilities and assets, including both physical and cyber systems, and other functions and sectors vital to the security, governance, public health, safety, and economic sustainability of Travis County.

For purposes of this Order, and in accordance with Governor’s Order GA-14, “**Essential Services**” consists of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce,” Version 2.0, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.

2. **Critical Infrastructure and Essential Businesses, include but are not limited to the following:**

- a. banking and financial institutions;
- b. transit and transit facilities, transportation services, equipment and facilities;
- c. power, water, dams, telecommunications, natural gas, public utilities and sanitation services;
- d. critical manufacturing including primary metals, machinery, electrical equipment and components, health and safety products and equipment, and transportation equipment;
- e. technology manufacturing companies;
- f. information technology and communications, including press;
- g. emergency services;
- h. public health and medical services;
- i. fire and law enforcement;
- j. public works;
- k. agriculture and food;
- l. airport facilities and operations;
- m. hazardous materials, storage and disposal;
- n. government buildings, facilities and systems including but not limited to courts and elections; and
- o. Construction, including residential and building commercial construction.

3. This Order shall not be construed to hinder construction for Essential Services and Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0 (“CISA Guidance”). The list of essential services will be maintained by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and can be found at www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices. The TDEM website further provides a procedure for determining whether a business qualifies as an essential service.

4. All employers, employees and clients of Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Business shall comply to the greatest extent feasible with Social Distancing and Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations as set forth in Section 1 of the Order and Exhibits B and D.

Exhibit D - Face Covering Requirements

A significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms. Because an infected person can transmit the virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth when outside your home or residence is necessary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is consistent with the findings of the CDC and Austin-Travis County Health Authority

Unless you already have your own personal used masks that cannot be donated, the fabric face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders. Staying home is the best way to help reduce the spread of the virus, but if an individual must leave their place of residence, wearing a fabric face covering shall be used as outlined in this Order. **Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.**

The public in general and Critical Infrastructure/Essential Business employers and employees shall adhere to the following:

- a. All persons over the age of ten (10) shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief, when:
 - (1) entering into or inside of any building open to the public,
 - (2) when using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares,
 - (3) when pumping gas, and
 - (4) outside and six feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained between the person and individuals outside of their household.
- b. This section shall not apply to persons:
 - (1) riding in a personal vehicle,
 - (2) that are alone in a separate single space,
 - (3) that are in the presence only of other members of their household or residence,
 - (4) when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk, such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance, or
 - (5) for consumption purposes.

Parents and Guardians of children under 10 shall be responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.

- c. All non-residents in nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities shall wear a fabric face covering as provided for in these Requirements, and set forth Section 1 of the Order (Face Covering Requirements). In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of Exhibit B, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk.
- d. All COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and untested individuals with cough and/or fever, and household members of same category of individuals shall not leave their residence without a mask or cloth face covering to prevent the spread to others.
- e. All individuals working for a business defined as Essential Government Service, Critical Infrastructure or Essential Business in Section 6 and Exhibit C of this Order should wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever in public and whenever performing job duties in the presence of others.
- f. Unless you already have your own personal used masks that cannot be donated, medical grade (N95) and surgical masks should be reserved and used only by medical professionals and first responders

Examples of how to make cloth face coverings can be found online including [guidance](#) from the CDC and [guidance](#) from Austin/ Travis County Health Authority.

- g. The fabric face covering should-
 - 1. Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - 2. be secured with ties or ear loops
 - 3. include multiple layers of fabric
 - 4. allow for breathing without restriction
 - 5. be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
 - 6. Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals shall maintain 6 feet of social distancing whenever possible
 - 7. Individuals should avoid touching their face and should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer
 - 8. For further information, individual can access information at <https://traviscountytexas.gov/news/2020/1945-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information> and www.AustinTexas.gov/COVID19.