



County Judge Lina Hidalgo
D I R E C T O R

AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HARRIS COUNTY

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency was issued to allow Harris County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Harris 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, on March 16, 2020, the County Judge of Harris County signed an Order outlining measures to protect the public and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 which was effective at 8:00 am, March 17, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR THE COUNTY OF HARRIS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY AMEND THE MARCH 16, 2020, ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. This Order shall be read to comply with Executive Order No. GA-08 signed on March 19, 2020 at 11:59 a.m. by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, which: prohibits gatherings of groups of 10 or more people; closes gyms and licensed massage businesses; prohibits visitation to nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and temporarily closes schools.

SECTION 2. This Order is effective upon signing and continues until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, unless terminated, extended, or modified by an earlier order, the County Judge of Harris County, Texas, deems it in the public interest to order that:

(a) Subject to this Order, dining on the premises of Food Establishments permitted by Harris County or dining on the premises of businesses that have City of Houston Food Dealer's permits to operate as Food Establishments pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Houston Code of Ordinances (all being referred to as "Food Establishments"), shall cease until April 3, 2020. Nothing herein precludes the provision of any other food service, such as to-go, take out, or delivery services, by such businesses.

(b) Food Establishments, with or without drive-in or drive-through services and food court dining areas, microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries, may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.

(c) This order does not apply to the following:

(1) Food Establishments located in Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport, hospitals, long term medical care facilities, rehabilitation or medical facilities, child care facilities, group homes, crisis and homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, congregate care facilities, long term care facilities, jails and detention facilities; and

(2) food banks serving low income citizens and nonprofits providing food to the homeless and the economically disadvantaged.

(c) Consuming alcoholic beverages within the enclosed premises of any Food Establishment or bar shall cease until April 3, 2020. Businesses within Harris County that have permits to operate as bars, nightclubs, lounges, taverns, or private clubs shall close, unless the business is also permitted to operate as a Food Establishment and such operation shall be limited as provided herein. Hotel and Country Club bars must close, except that any permitted food or beverage service, including alcoholic beverages, may be continued as take out, delivery, or drive-through services. Additionally, hotels may provide room service. Nothing in this order affects the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption as permitted by State or local law.

(d) Food Establishments which choose to remain open in accordance with Section 2 must take steps to enforce a 6 foot distancing among the public they are servicing.

SECTION 3: Pursuant to Section V(A)(5)(a) and Appendix 9 to Annex U of the Harris County Basic Plan adopted by Harris County Commissioners Court on October 29, 2019, and in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code § 418.173, any law enforcement agency based or sent to assist in Harris County is hereby authorized to enforce this order, and the failure to comply with this Order is an offense and is punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SECTION 4: Harris County will post this Order on its 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 provisions of this Order.

SECTION 5: This Order applies to all unincorporated and incorporated areas within the boundaries of Harris County and supersedes and replaces any order issued by the City of Houston.

ORDERED this the 19 th day of March, 2020, at 4:15 pm in Harris County, Texas.



LINA HIDALGO
HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE

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[Handwritten Signature]
COUNTY CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY TEXAS