

**LIBERTY COUNTY
EXECUTIVE ORDER
March 20, 2020**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF LIBERTY COUNTY JUDGE
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES**

WHEREAS, by Commissioners Court Order issued on March 13, 2020, the Commissioners Court of Liberty County declared a state of disaster for Liberty County, resulting from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, by Commissioners Court Order issued on March 20, 2020, the Commissioners Court of Liberty County renewed a declaration a state of disaster for Liberty County, resulting from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Sec. 418.018(c) states the governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code Sec. 418.1015 states:

(a) The presiding officer of the governing body of an incorporated city or a county or the chief administrative officer of a joint board is designated as the emergency management director for the officer's political subdivision.

(b) An emergency management director serves as the governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties under this chapter. An emergency management director may exercise the powers granted to the governor under this chapter on an appropriate local scale.

WHEREAS, The CDC and President of the United States have issued guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, by Executive Order issued on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas, ordered certain restrictions of gatherings and recommended certain business practices to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the regulations that are ordered herein are the least restrictive measures to achieve the common goals of our community; and

WHEREAS, additional restrictive measures may be implemented as merited by the continuously changing circumstances caused by the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following regulations shall take effect at midnight on March 20, 2020 and shall operate until the declaration of the state of emergency has ended by non-renewal or otherwise;

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES

Order No. 1. In accordance with the Guidelines from President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC, every person in Liberty County, Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of ten (10) or more. "Social gatherings" includes conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies and any other type of assembly.

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

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

Order No. 4. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close through April 10, 2020. This does not apply to licensed child-care facilities, including a daycare center, group daycare home or family home. All childcare facilities should continue to follow the guidance from the Texas Health and Human Service (HHSC) Child Care Licensing Department, the CDC and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Order No. 5. Any building which the public has access to, including a daycare facility, is hereby restricted from being occupied by more than 20% of the Maximum Occupancy requirements as set forth by the International Building Code (IBC). Maximum Occupancy signs shall be prominently displayed to show this reduced number in these places. Persons must adhere to social distancing by keeping a minimum of 6 feet separation from each other.

Order No. 6. A twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place throughout Liberty County for all individuals who are under the age of 18 who are not currently in school. This curfew does not apply if the individual under the age of 18 is accompanied by school personnel, a parent, or guardian. Persons under the age of 18 are allowed to travel to and from: work, school, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, parks, banks, and restaurants with the permission of their parent or legal guardian.

Recommendations. People, businesses and communities should immediately undertake hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation practices that are accessible, affordable

and known to be effective against COVID-19. Wash hands often for twenty (20) seconds and encourage others to do the same. If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. People who are known to have, or are under investigation or monitoring, for COVID-19, should adhere to the direction provided to them by duly authorized persons, including public health officials. Failure to abide by such direction may result in involuntary quarantine or isolation for the purposes of preventing further community spread of COVID-19.

People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID 19, should isolate themselves at home until they recover. Such persons should only present for medical evaluation and treatment if their symptoms are such that they cannot continue to be cared for in their home. And, when seeking medical care should call their doctor or health care facility before arriving to allow them to prepare. Limit trips into the public to essential outings. Traveling to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy or to seek medical care would be considered essential trips. Limit as much as possible close contact with other people. Stay six feet away. Employers should allow work at home alternatives to the greatest extent possible.

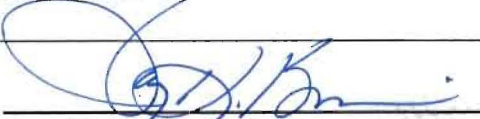

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place, but it is encouraged. Any travel not to work, grocery stores, pharmacies, or other healthcare facilities is discouraged.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect until extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

Penalties. These regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the Liberty County Clerk. A person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or confinement in the Liberty County Jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

ORDERED THIS 20th DAY OF March 2020.

 Jay Knight Liberty County Judge	 Attest: Lee Chambers Liberty County Clerk
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