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OCT 27 2020

HUMBERTO BERT GONZALEZ, JR., COUNTY CLERK STARR CO. TX
BY: _____ DEPUTY

Eloy Vera
Starr County Judge

Starr County Courthouse Annex
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Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

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**STARR COUNTY ORDER
IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO
MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 DURING
THE HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY SEASON**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Starr County Judge Eloy Vera issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and,

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Starr County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Starr County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Code Section 418.108(b), the consent of the Commissioners Court authorizes the Starr County Judge to continue to exercise powers granted under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975; and,

WHEREAS, Starr County continues to evaluate the circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19, and the opening substantial and moderate spread of the disease in the community, with a persistent number of active positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths; and

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT of 1975, in response to the continuing Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19, Starr County Judge Eloy Vera does hereby issue this Starr County Halloween Holiday Order effective at 12:01 a.m., October 27, 2020, as follows:

As part of the continuing efforts by Starr County Judge Eloy Vera and the Commissioners Court of the County of Starr to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency, the intent of this Order is to promote and prescribe Health and Safety Measures, as provided by CDC guidance, for celebrations during the ongoing Fall AND Halloween holiday season. During this Declared Emergency, and as authorized by law, the County may amend, revise and/or update this order based on the continued evaluation of circumstances directly related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

HALLOWEEN

In accordance with this Order, and with the support of the Mayors of the municipalities of the County of Starr, **DOOR-TO-DOOR Trick-or-Treating** is hereby **PROHIBITED**. The County of Starr, as well as the municipalities within the jurisdiction of the County may provide alternative activities, so long as adequate Health and Safety measures are implemented to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Such measures SHALL prescribe facial coverings, physical distancing, and other measures as described herein.

Many common Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses, but there are several safer alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should **NOT** participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should **NOT** give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Lower risk activities:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Having virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home

Moderate risk activities:

- Going to a drive thru haunted house or an open air one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than six (6) feet apart
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is enforced, and people are able to maintain physical distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with members of your household

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Traditional Dia De Los Muertos activities can put individuals at higher risk for exposure to COVID-19. Individuals should consider safer, alternative ways to celebrate, and participate in activities by implementing adequate Health and Safety Measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Such measures may SHALL prescribe facial covering, physical distancing, and other measures as described herein.

Any person who may have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, should **NOT** participate in in-person Dia De Los Muertos festivities.

Lower risk activities

- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others

- Playing music in your home that our deceased loved ones enjoyed
- Making and decorating masks or making an altar for the deceased
- Setting out pillows and blankets in your home for the deceased
- Joining a virtual get-together celebration

Moderate risk activities

- Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones with household members only and keeping more than six (6) feet away from others who may be in the area

DO NOT USE A COSTUME MASK IN PLACE OF A CLOTH MASK

- Do not use a costume mask (such as for Halloween) as a substitute for a cloth mask or facial covering unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers your mouth and nose and does not leave gaps around your face.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask because it can be dangerous of the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask or facial covering.

If you are waiting for your COVID-19 test results, stay home until you have a result, and follow the CDC’s guidance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency.

FACIAL COVERING:

In accordance with Governor Abbot’s Executive Order GA-29, every person in the County of Starr shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space; wherever it is not feasible to maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to the following:

1. Any person younger than 10 years of age;
2. Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
4. Any person while the person is (a) exercising outdoors or engaging in physical activity outdoors, and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household;
5. Any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
6. Any person obtaining services that require temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while visiting a bank or while obtaining a personal care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
7. Any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or activity administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
8. Any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
9. Any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;

10. Any person while the person is giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience.

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-29, following a verbal or written warning for first-time violation of this face-covering requirement, a person’s second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s Executive order GA-29, local law enforcement and local officials should enforce this Order, as well as other local restrictions that are consistent with this Order and other Executive Orders issued by Governor Abbott.

No law enforcement or other official may detain, arrest, or confine in jail nay person for a violation of this Order, provided, however, that law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws and remove violators at the request of a business establishment or other property owner.

This Order shall remain in full force and will continue to be in effect until **11:59 p.m. November 6, 2020** unless it is modified, rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law, and/or the status of COVID-19 in the County of Starr, Texas. This Order supersedes prior Orders, to the extent that there is a conflict or apparent conflict between the Orders.


If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

ORDERED this the 27 of October, 2020, in the **COUNTY OF STARR, TEXAS**, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the **COUNTY OF STARR**.

STARR COUNTY

Eloy Vera
Starr County Judge

Filed with me, the County Clerk of Starr County, this the 27 day of October, 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