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HUMBERTO BERT GONZALEZ, JR. COUNTY CLERK STARR CO. TX
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY

Eloy Vera
Starr County Judge

Starr County Courthouse Annex
100 N. FM 3167, Ste. #202
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

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STARR COUNTY STAY AT HOME/STAY SAFE EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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 Government 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, Judge Vera has previously issued Emergency Orders Related to the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency, which limited outdoor gatherings to no more than 100-hundred (100) people in unincorporated areas of the County of Starr, in accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-28; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas and Starr County has seen an increase in the number of cases and hospitalizations related to COVID-19, resulting in continued single daily record high reported cases, without a downward trajectory since Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-028 on June 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott, by Proclamation, amended Executive Order GA-28, and issued Executive Order GA-29, related to the use of face covering during the COVID-19 disaster;

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT of 1975, Starr County Judge Eloy Vera does hereby issue this Starr County **ORDER** effective at **12:01 a.m. December 14, 2020** as follows:

SHELTER-AT-HOME

All individuals currently living within Starr County, Texas **ARE ORDERED TO SHELTER-AT-HOME IN THEIR RESIDENCE**. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain Physical Distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

It is **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** and **RECOMMENDED** that all commercial businesses operating within Starr County, except essential covered businesses should cease all activities at facilities that may not be provided by curbside, drive-through, or take-out services.

SHELTER-AT-HOME CURFEW

1. In addition to the **MANDATE** to Shelter-At-Home, a curfew for all persons aged seventeen (17) and under shall be imposed from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, or for providing Covered Services.

2. In addition to the **MANDATE** to Shelter-At-Home, a curfew for all persons aged eighteen (18) and over shall be imposed from 11:00 PM to 5:00AM, unless that person is out for an emergency, or for providing Covered Services, or unless otherwise superseded by proclamation or subsequent executive orders issued by Governor Abbott.

For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence, in compliance with the **SHELTER- AT-HOME** and **CURFEW**, only to obtain or provide the following essential activities:

1. 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 (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).
11. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of households, or to deliver those services or supplies to others.
111. To engage in outdoor activity, such as visiting open parks, hunting or fishing, engaging in physical activity like walking, running or bicycling, provided the individuals, follow CDC guidance, comply with Physical Distancing including maintaining six-foot (6) physical distancing from each other; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and covering mouth and nose when conducting activity within six feet(6) of another person.

- IV. To perform work providing essential products and services at an essential covered business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
- v. To care for a family member, a child or pet in another household.

TRAVEL

To the greatest extent possible, all travel during the **SHELTER-AT-HOME** and **CURFEW** within the jurisdiction of Starr County should be limited to obtaining or performing essential covered services, travel as permitted by law, or as follow:

1. "Essential Travel" includes travel for any of the following purposes:
 - a) Any travel related to the provision of or access to essential covered services.
 - b) Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
 - c) Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and business operations.
 - d) Travel to return to a place of residence, including from outside the jurisdiction
 - e) Travel to return from a place of employment, including from outside the jurisdiction.
 - f) Travel required by First Responders, Law Enforcement or court order.
 - g) Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County.

Travel should be limited to persons of the same household per vehicle for obtaining essential services, essential Healthcare Operations, Government Functions, Essential Commercial services, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its [*Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce*](#).

2. Public Transportation may only be used for purposes of obtaining or performing:
 - a) Essential covered services.
 - b) To travel to and from work for the purposes of providing Covered Services.

All Public Transportation activities must be performed in compliance with physical distancing including, to the extent possible, maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds often or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and requiring the wearing of facial covering mouth and nose.

FACIAL COVERINGS

In accordance with Governor Abbott'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 feet (6) 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 5 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 requires 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 while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
8. 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;
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 a broadcast or to an audience.

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Proclamation amending Executive Order GA-28, any outdoor gathering in excess of ten (10) people is prohibited, unless the Mayor of the City in which the gathering is held, or the Starr County Judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves of the gathering, and such approval is made subject to applicable conditions or restrictions.

The following outdoor areas or outdoor venues shall operate at no more than fifty percent (50%) of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner and validated by local code enforcement or Fire Marshal office:

- 1.) Professional, collegiate, or similar sporting events;
- 2.) Swimming pools;
- 3.) Water parks;
- 4.) Museums and libraries;
- 5.) Zoo, aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities;
- 6.) Rodeos and equestrian events;
- 7.) Amusement parks and carnivals.

This is no occupancy limit for the following:

- a. Any services listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#), Version 3.1 or any subsequent version;
- b. Religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship;
- c. Local government operations, including county and municipal government operations relating to licensing (including marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, document-filing services, as determined by the local government;
- d. Child-care services;
- e. Youth camps, including but not limited to those defined as such under Chapter 141 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and including all summer camps, and other daytime and overnight camps for youth;
- f. Recreational sports programs for youths and adults;

HUMIDIFICATION

Due to some scientific evidence, it has been shown that Absolute Humidity above 10 helps prevent the spreading of COVID-19.

Therefore, it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AND RECOMMENDED that all government buildings to include: county, cities and schools to humidify all public buildings to an absolute humidity of no less than 10.

Except as provided in this Order or in the minimum standard health protocols recommended by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus, people **SHALL NOT** be in groups larger than ten (10) and shall maintain six feet (6) of physical distancing from those **NOT IN THEIR GROUP OR HOUSEHOLD**.

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

In accordance with this ORDER a first-time violation of MANDATED CURFEW or SOCIAL GATHERING LIMITATION of 10 PEOPLE OR LESS, a person violation MAY be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent 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 Governor Abbott effective Executive Orders.

No law enforcement or other official may detain, arrest, or confine in jail any 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 effect until, **11:59 p.m. January 10, 2021**, unless it is modified, rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law, the status of COVID-19 in the County of Starr, Texas. This Order supersedes prior Orders, as it relates to outdoor gatherings, and in the event of a conflict or apparent conflict between the Orders, this Order shall control.

It is the intent of this Order to remain as consistent with executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott. This Order is in addition to the executive orders issued by Governor Greg Abbott. As such, to the extent that this County Order may be inconsistent with any orders issued by the Governor, then the Governor's Order shall control, but only to the extent this order may not restrict essential services or covered services, allow gatherings prohibited by Executive Order GA-26, or expand essential services or covered services set forth in Executive Order GA-26.

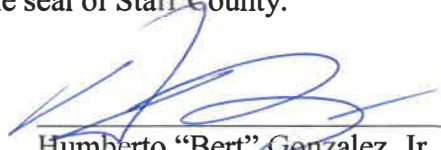
If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining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

ORDERED this 12 , day of December 2020.



Eloy Vera, Starr County Judge

Filed with me, the County Clerk of Starr County, this the 12 day of December 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