



STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF JASPER

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**EXTENSION OF SECOND AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER**

I, Mark W. Allen, duly elected Judge of Jasper County, Texas, based upon the most recent information received from the Southeast Texas Emergency Operations Center Emergency Management personnel, the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Texas, the Texas Commissioner on Public Health and local Public Health Authorities within Jasper County and the Southeast Texas Region, issue this **ORDER REGARDING THE OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES THROUGHOUT JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES:**

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Jasper County Judge, Mark W. Allen issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for a public health emergency to allow Jasper County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Jasper County residents in accordance with Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code; 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 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas Greg Abbott, issued an Executive Order, containing orders instructing the public to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, as well as temporarily closing schools to protect the public health from the spread of COVID-19 infection; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the Texas Commissioner on Public Health, John W. Hellerstedt, M.D, issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. 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 23, 2020, the Jasper County Commissioners Court continued the local Declaration of Disaster, issued by County Judge Mark W. Allen on March 17, 2020, approving the extension by an additional sixty (60) days, pursuant to Sec. 418, Texas Government Code and such Declaration of Disaster for Jasper County, Texas remains in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, County Judge Mark W. Allen has issued an Emergency Order, a First Amended Emergency Order and 1 Addendum thereto, and a Second Amended Emergency Order which, among other things, prohibits citizens from gathering in groups of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbott issued an additional Executive Order (GA-14), pursuant to his authority under Section 418.014, Texas Government Code regarding the imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State which is posed by COVID-19 declaring that this Governor's Order is to be effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020 and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension or amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, Subsequent Executive Orders of the Governor may supersede the authority of County Judge Mark Allen as the Jasper County Director of Emergency Management, pursuant to Section 418.108, Texas Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbott did, in his Executive Order GA-14, which was filed on March 31, 2020, specifically include religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship as “essential services”; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbott ordered that “except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, direct that we are to minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household and that in providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the Centers for Disease Control implementing social distancing and sanitation and cleanliness protocols”; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbott ordered that in obtaining or providing essential services, all services should be provided through remote telework unless those essential services cannot be provided by remote telework and that if religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the Centers for Disease Control by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings and causes property loss or damage due to its ability to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an "All of Community" approach focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing to reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, given the ongoing evaluation of circumstances related to the COVID-19 virus, the updated recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the substantial risks posed by the COVID-19 virus to Jasper County residents and their property, the following extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public's safety.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

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. This Order is in addition to any previous orders and addendum issued by the Jasper County Judge and hereby incorporates all previous orders by reference.

Summary: The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private healthcare providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order requires all individuals anywhere in Jasper County, to stay at home, except for certain essential activities and work to provide essential business and essential government services or perform essential infrastructure construction, including housing. This Order takes effect at 6:00 p.m. on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will continue through 11:59 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, subject to the limited exceptions and under the terms and conditions more particularly set forth below.

1. Effective as of 6:00 p.m. on the 9th day of April, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

- a. All individuals currently living within Jasper County are ordered to remain at their place of residence except for essential activities as defined in this order. All persons may leave their residences only for essential activities, or to provide or perform essential governmental functions, or to operate essential businesses, as defined in Section 2. For purposes of this Order, a residence includes homes, 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 social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

b. All businesses operating within Jasper County, except essential businesses as defined below in Section 2, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the County. For clarity, any business may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all essential businesses shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached, including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public. Financial institutions may continue to provide services with drive through operations.

c. All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit. Nothing in this Order affects orders or agreements regarding child-related visitation or custody arrangements.

d. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, public playground equipment may increase spread of COVID-19 and, therefore, shall not be utilized. Parades, whereby large gatherings occur, shall cease operation.

e. Restaurants, bars, micro-breweries, micro-distilleries, wineries and other establishments that serve food, with or without drive-in or drive-through services, are prohibited from serving food for consumption on the premises and may only serve food and/or alcohol by take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.

f. Gyms, indoor recreational sports and fitness training centers, indoor and outdoor public swimming pools, and other facilities that are used or intended to be used for any type of indoor training, martial arts, sports or recreation shall close.

g. Spas, licensed massage businesses, tattoo parlors, concert halls, live performance theaters, arenas, stadiums, movie theaters, game rooms, businesses with 8-liners, arcades, indoor and outdoor flea markets and swap meets, arcades and bingo halls shall close.

h. Faith leaders are encouraged to minister and counsel in individual settings, with social distance protocols being followed. However, Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-14 provides direction and guidance for religious and worship services.

#### Definitions:

- A. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities" :
- i. 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 healthcare professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).
  - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supplies, and any other household consumer products, supplies needed to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences).
  - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, outdoor sports and recreation, walking, biking, hiking, boating, camping, running, hunting or fishing, etc.).

- iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an essential business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
- v. To care for a family member, pet or livestock in another household, or to perform any personal farming, ranching, timber and agricultural activity.

For purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" include:

**Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet to the extent possible. (CISA's Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce). Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activities shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines.

**Essential Government Functions.** All services provided by local governments and municipalities located in Jasper County needed to ensure their continuing operation to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public, including law enforcement, jail operations and other services. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing "Essential Government Functions". All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet to the extent possible.

**Essential Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare operations, including, but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, chiropractors, 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 include 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 in Jasper County.

**Essential Retail.** Food producers and service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, furniture suppliers, big box stores, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers' markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, ranching, fishing, and livestock, as well as livestock auction barns and houses. Timber, logging and wood product industry. Food production, including the production of canned goods, bottled beverages and other grocery items. Businesses that provide groceries, food, goods or services at their place of business, curbside or directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, drive-thru or carry-out. Schools, congregate meal centers, and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up, delivery and drive-through basis only. The restriction of delivery or carry-out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities, but Social Distancing Guidelines do apply. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers, florists, gas stations, automotive supply stores, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities. Pawn shops, firearms sellers, gunsmiths, saw shops, timber and logging support companies. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home. Barber shops, hair and nail salons may operate only when Social Distancing Guidelines can be met between customers and only when the owners, employees and customers wear proper personal protective masks, gloves and clothing to prevent the spread of infection, and if these requirements cannot be met to safely prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, the barber shop, hair or nail salon shall cease operation.

**Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.** Businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needed individuals.

**Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.** Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries. Plumbers, electricians, real estate agents, exterminators, yard and maintenance crews, housekeepers, janitorial staff, pool cleaners and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities.

Businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with support or utilities needed to operate. Caregivers and helpers who provide services to seniors, children and disabled individuals. Mobile home sales and services, storage building services, portable building sales and services. HVAC and generator sales and services.

**News Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

**Childcare and Adult Care Services.** Childcare and adult care facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.

**Infrastructure, Development, Operation and Construction.** For example, public works construction, construction of housing or other types of construction including commercial, manufacturing, airport operations and aircraft manufacturing, maintenance or repair, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, communication tower construction, repair and support, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

**Transportation.** Businesses related to the operation, maintenance, construction, and manufacture of transportation services. For example, (a) vehicle manufacturers, automotive suppliers and parts departments, car dealerships, parts distributors, maintenance and repair facilities, auto body shops; (b) businesses supporting airport and train rail operation; (c) street and highway maintenance and construction; (d) gas stations and other fuel distribution businesses.

**Veterans Services.** Critical services including, but not limited to, providing for the health, wellness, education, employment assistance, mental health and other essential services to active duty and veteran members of the military branches of the United States of America.

**Labor Union Functions.** Critical labor union functions, including the maintenance of health and welfare funds and checking on the well-being and safety of members.

**Airports and related operations.** Airport and airline activities, operations, maintenance and repairs, and the hotels that serve these essential businesses and essential infrastructure.

**Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, insurance services, title companies, and real estate services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities or to further essential businesses, essential government functions, or critical infrastructure.

2. These infection control precautions apply to all Essential Businesses: (1) practice social distancing by requiring patrons, visitors, and employees to be separated by six (6) feet, to the extent feasible (2) provide access to hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol; (3) post a sign in a conspicuous place at the public entrance to the venue instructing members of the public not to enter if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever or cough; and (4) adhere to other general communicable disease control recommendations by public health authorities.
3. Grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, hospitals, and medical facilities are experiencing high levels of demand for a large number of products, requiring more deliveries from manufacturers and distribution centers to serve their customers. A number of Texas cities and local associations have implemented restrictions on delivery hours to stores to mitigate truck noise and traffic. Due to the need to deliver products as quickly and efficiently as possible during this critical timeframe, this Order hereby suspends all delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies or equipment in Jasper County for the next sixty (60) days.
  - Only one member of a household can enter the following retail/wholesale establishments at one time, unless an individual is handicapped and requires assistance, or is a parent, guardian or caregiver of a child or children for whom there is no alternative care. This applies to the following retailers: Grocery stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, hardware stores, any store within a strip shopping center, liquor stores, gas stations, convenience stores, and farmers' markets.
  - All retailers, wholesalers and customers of the above listed retail/wholesale outlets are immediately put on notice: Pursuant to Texas Government Code,

Section 418.173, Peace officers are hereby authorized to enforce the current Order and Addendum. Any retailer, wholesaler or customer who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, or up to 180 days confinement in jail.

4. If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, all residents of the household are ordered to isolate at home until cleared by a public health authority or medical provider.
5. Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this Order to prohibit nonessential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
6. This Order shall be effective until 11:59 p.m. on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
7. In accordance with Tex. Gov't Code § 418.173, any law enforcement agency based in Jasper County is hereby authorized to enforce this order and the failure to comply with this Order is an offense under this Order 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.
8. Jasper County will post this Order on the Internet. 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 on site 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 portions or applications of this Order.

The Jasper County Courthouse and all Jasper County Sub-Courthouses will remain open with flexible staffing, however access to the Courthouse and Sub-Courthouses by the public will be significantly limited to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. Most services can be accessed by the public electronically or by mail. Therefore, it is advisable that you telephone the department head or elected official whose department you wish to visit prior to coming. Persons who are granted entry must agree to undergo a simple health screening protocol upon entering and, if the health screening indicates that they may pose a health threat, they may be denied entry.

It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place immediately throughout Jasper County for all individuals under the age of 18, who

- a) are not in school or at a school-sponsored event; or
- b) are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent, guardian, caregiver, or a family member 18 years of age or older; or
- c) are not going directly to their place of employment or going directly home from that place of employment; or
- d) are not traveling for emergency medical purposes.

This Order does not apply to special needs students during the times local school districts are required by federal law to provide those students services.

**WHEREAS**, this state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management; Every hospital, physician, health care provider, public health authority, or other individual or entity shall, immediately, but no less than within 4 hours of learning of a patient or employee with a suspected or positive case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), report same to the Southeast Texas Emergency Operations Center, located at the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management via email to [EOC@Co.Jefferson.TX.US](mailto:EOC@Co.Jefferson.TX.US). Such report shall include the individual's name, address, age, current location, and information relating to whether such individual had recently traveled outside the six counties of Jefferson, Hardin, Orange, Jasper, Newton, or Tyler County.

For additional information, please refer to the Executive Orders issued by Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas, effective on March 24, 2020 and GA-14, issued on March 31, 2020.

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-executive-order-to-strengthen-reporting-capabilities>

Failure to comply with such reporting requirements shall be a violation of this order punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or confinement in jail for a period not to exceed 180 days.

This information is required in accordance with guidance from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights and 45 CFR 164.512.

It is therefore Ordered that the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon execution of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or this Order may be amended:

### PRICE CONTROLS

A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services before March 17, 2020, which is the date of the original Emergency Order:

- a) groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice;
- b) construction and building materials and supplies and earthmoving equipment and machinery;
- c) electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and accessories;
- d) charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns;
- e) hand tools (manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental;
- f) automotive parts, supplies and accessories;
- g) plumbing and electrical tools and supplies;
- h) apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental;
- i) gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants;
- j) restaurant, cafeteria and boarding house meals;
- k) services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies;
- l) medicine, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies;
- m) blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed liners, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsheets, bedsteads, towels and toilet paper; and
- n) furniture and clothing.

### PENALTIES

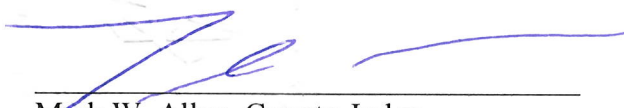
These price control regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the County Clerk.

This order does **NOT** extend to law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, emergency management operations, court operations, including jury operations, and to all school districts of Jasper County.

All Jasper County employees must report for work as required by their supervisors.

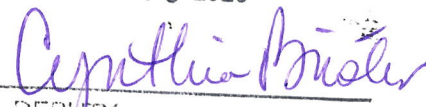
This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or terminated.

ORDERED, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark W. Allen, County Judge  
Jasper County, Texas

DEBBIE NEWMAN, COUNTY CLERK  
JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS

FILED APR 09 2020

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY

Attachment: Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-14

**LIVE SAFE – WORK SAFE – STAY SAFE**

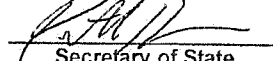


GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 31, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

  
Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701

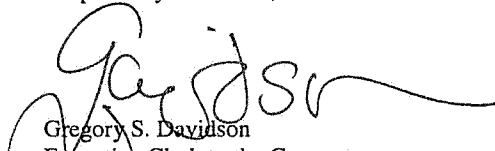
Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to statewide continuity of essential services  
and activities during the COVID-19 disaster.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor  
GSD/gsd

Attachment



# Executive Order

BY THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department  
Austin, Texas  
March 31, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
GA 14

*Relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities  
during the COVID-19 disaster.*

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WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to the COVID-19 disaster, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, which called upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-08 is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, absent further action by the governor; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, to avoid scenarios that could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths, the President announced that, based on advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx say that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, which provides an advisory list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, for state agencies and their employees and agents, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas has advised that local restrictions issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster do not apply to restrict the conduct of state business; and

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

WHEREAS, all government entities and businesses should be allowed to continue providing essential services during the COVID-19 disaster, and all critical infrastructure should be allowed to remain operational; and

WHEREAS, the “governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters” under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the “governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the “governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business ... if strict compliance with the provisions ... would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the “governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), 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;” and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 12:01 a.m. on April 2, 2020, and continuing through April 30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

“Essential services” shall consist 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. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and in any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

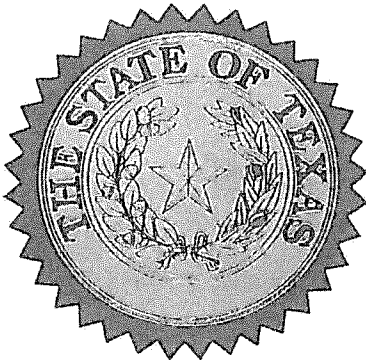
This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order. I hereby suspend Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-08, but not Executive Orders GA-09, GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, or GA-13, and shall remain in effect and in full force until April 30, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 31st day of  
March, 2020.

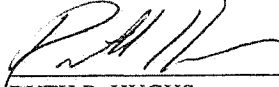
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK

MAR 31 2020

ATTESTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RUTH R. HUGHS  
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2 PM O'CLOCK  
MAR 31 2020

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