



ORDER NO. 2020-06

ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EDINBURG

LIVE SAFE, WORK SAFE

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (coronavirus) is a contagious respiratory virus that can spread from person to person, especially in group settings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbot declared a State of Disaster in Texas on March 13, 2020, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Molina declared a local disaster on March 17, 2020, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Molina issued Order 2020-01 on March 17, 2020 prohibiting community gatherings of 50 persons or more, controlling prices, and requiring reporting of testing; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbot issued Executive Order GA 08 on March 19, 2020, to take effect at 11:59 P.M. on March 20, 2020, that prohibits social gatherings of more than 10 people; prohibits eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms; prohibits visitations of nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and temporarily closes schools; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Molina issued Order 2020-02 on March 20, 2020, prohibiting community gatherings of more than 10 people; prohibiting eating or drinking in bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms; and prohibiting visitations of nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County issued an Emergency Order on March 22, 2020 imposing further restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic event; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Molina issued Order 2020-03 on March 23, 2020 to align the City's restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic event with the County's Emergency Order; and



WHEREAS, Mayor Molina, and the City Council through unanimous support, issued Order 2020-04 on March 24, 2020, ordering all remaining businesses operating within the City of Edinburg to follow minimum standards regarding hygiene, sanitation, and distancing and that those businesses submit a written **Work Safe Plan** documenting those policies to keep employees and customers safe; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Molina, and the City Council through unanimous support, issued Order 2020-05 on April 3, 2020, ordering all persons within the City of Edinburg to wear facial coverings of the nose and mouth; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbot announced on April 27, 2020 that his stay-at-home order would expire on April 30, 2020 and subsequently issued Executive Order GA 18 to reopen services as part of a plan to Open Texas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edinburg is required to align its restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic event with Executive Order GA 18.

NOW, THEREFORE; BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

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 Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

Section 2. This Order is effective as of 12:01 a.m. on May 1, 2020, and continuing until the state of disaster is terminated, or other date as determined by the City Council, unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order.

LIVE SAFE

GUIDANCE:

Section 3. SAFER AT HOME. All persons living within the City of Edinburg are encouraged to stay at home and avoid unnecessary interactions whenever possible to reduce the spread of disease. Persons at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence at all times except as necessary to seek medical care.

Section 4. PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE. All persons should wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible, avoid touching their nose or face, cover coughs and sneezes by doing so into a sleeve or elbow, regularly clean high-touch surfaces, and not shake hands.

Section 5. AVOID GATHERINGS. All persons should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 persons within the City of Edinburg to minimize in-person contact. This advisement does not apply to members of the same household.

Section 6. NOSE AND MOUTH COVER. All persons three years and older should **WEAR SOME FORM OF COVERING OVER THEIR NOSE AND MOUTH** when in public or around persons that are not in their household. Examples of facial covering include items such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. Persons are encouraged not to wear medical grade masks to no disrupt the supply of personal protective equipment.

MANDATES:

Section 7. PHYSICAL DISTANCING. To the extent persons are outside of their residence, they **MUST AT ALL TIMES**, as reasonably as possible, maintain a physical distance of **at least six feet from any other person** who is not a member of their household.

Section 8. SPORTS AND OUTDOOR EXERCISE. While exercising outdoors, persons must maintain a **physical distance of at least six feet from any other person** who is not a member of their household. Persons cannot participate in sports that include contact with others outside of their household. Persons participating in group sports must limit the group to no more than 4 persons.

Section 9. SELF QUARANTINE. People who are ill, especially those with symptoms consistent with influenza or COVID-19, **MUST ISOLATE THEMSELVES AT HOME** until they recover. Such persons should communicate with an appropriate health care professional and, when seeking in-person medical care, should call their doctor or health care facility before arriving to allow them to prepare.

An entire household is ordered to self quarantine at home, and no one within the household may go to work, school, or any public function of any kind, for a period of no less than two weeks, unless a health authority imposes a longer time period, if

- a. Anyone in a household tests positive for COVID-19; or
- b. Anyone in the household has had close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for a prolonged period of time.

WORK SAFE

MANDATES:

Section 10. WORK SAFE PLAN. Any business or organization that operates within the City of Edinburg **must implement and enforce distancing, sanitation, and hygiene practices.** At a minimum, such practices **must** include the following:

- b. To the maximum extent possible, ensure that all customers and all employees stay at least six feet away from each other at all times.
- c. To the maximum extent possible, minimize employees on site, minimize in person meetings, and allow employees to work from home.
- d. Provide sanitation supplies accessible and available to all employees such as disinfectants, hand sanitizer comprised of at least 60% alcohol, and soap.
- e. Provide hand sanitation at all entrances for customers.
- f. If an employee reports possible exposure, or reports or shows symptoms of COVID-19, send the employee home and sanitize the employee's work area.
- g. Mandate that employees clean and sanitize work areas, including vehicles, at least twice during the workday.
- h. Perform thorough cleaning/sanitation of all common areas and surface areas at least once during the workday.
- i. Prior to beginning work, screen all employees and send home any employee who
 1. Shows signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever, or
 2. In the previous 14 days has had close contact (defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet for a prolonged period of time; for example riding in a vehicle together) with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness.
- j. Train all employees on appropriate cleaning, hygiene, and sanitation procedures.
- k. Place visible signage within the business to remind employees and customers of best hygiene practices.

All operating businesses and organizations must submit a **Work Safe Plan** to the City of Edinburg. Businesses that operate in the City of Edinburg must submit to inspections upon request of the City to ensure compliance with this section.

Section 11. BUSINESS RESTRICTIONS. Subject to these mandatory **Work Safe Plan** measures, the following businesses and organizations must restrict their operations as follows:

a. **Retail.**

- i. **Limited Occupancy.** Retail establishments must operate at no more than 25% of the occupancy of its facility, inclusive of employees and customers.
- ii. **At-Risk Customers.** To the extent possible, retail establishments shall dedicate a certain period of time each day for only at-risk customers, at-risk customers being those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.
- iii. **Self-Service Checkouts and Touch Systems.** Retail establishments using self-service checkout registers and other point of sale systems touched by customers must sanitize those registers and systems after each use by a customer.

b. **Restaurants, Coffee Houses, and other Food Service, including Banquet Halls.**

- i. **Limited Occupancy.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food or drink may provide dine-in or sit-in services, but must operate at no more than 25% of the capacity of its facility, inclusive of employees and customers.
- ii. **To-Go Packaging Only.** All such facilities must serve food and drink either in (a) "to-go" packaging or other type of individual, disposable packaging or (b) on an individual, non-disposable plate but with a disposable cover. In accordance with Section 13 of this Order, self-service of any type is not permitted, including buffet stations and drink stations.
- iii. **Disposable Menus and Items.** All such facilities shall provide only disposable menus and single use condiments.
- iv. **Physical Distancing.** Dine-in or sit-in parties must be at least six feet away from other parties, including while waiting to be seated. For clarity, seated tables must be configured so that there is at least six feet between any person in any party.
- v. **Limited Table Seating.** All such facilities must have no more than 6 persons at a table, regardless of the party size.
- vi. **Mandatory Sanitation.** All dining tables, chair, and other items touched by employees or customers must be sanitized after each use. All used items must be removed before another party can be seated.

c. **Movie Theaters.**

- i. **Limited Occupancy.** Movie theaters must operate at no more than 25% of the occupancy of its facility, inclusive of employees and customers.

- ii. **Mandatory Spacing.** Movie theaters must ensure that there are at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row and one empty row between each used row.
- iii. **Disposable items.** Movie theaters must serve food and drink only in individually packed, disposable containers and may provide only single use condiments.
- iv. **Mandatory Sanitation.** All used chairs must be sanitized after each use. All used items must be removed from a theater after the end of each screening.

Section 12. MANDATED CLOSURES. Until further notice, the following categories of services cannot be provided within the City of Edinburg:

- a. Bars, clubs, and other place of public accommodation offering alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption;
- b. Fitness centers and gyms;
- c. Public swimming pools;
- d. Spas and massage parlors, tattoos and piercing parlors, and tanning salons;
- e. Hair and nail salons, barber shops, estheticians, and related personal care businesses;
- f. Entertainment facilities with interactive activities such as bowling alleys, arcades, and playscapes.

Section 13. SELF SERVICE CLOSURE. Self-service drink and food stations are closed in all businesses, including self-serve fountain drink dispensers, self-serve coffee bars, and self-serve condiments. Self-service drink and food, such as grab-and-go food stations, coolers, and snack racks, are permitted only for packaged and sealed drink and food items.

Section 14. RETIREMENT FACILITIES. Persons shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities except to provide critical assistance.

Section 15. CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES. City parks will remain open to the extent practicable, but all equipment and facilities shall be closed to the public. All persons in City parks must be at least 6 feet away from any other person other than a member of their household.

Section 16. CITY BOARDS. All City boards and advisory committees shall cease in person meetings; any meetings shall be conducted in compliance with guidance provided by the Texas Attorney General.

Section 17. PREVIOUS ORDERS. This Order supersedes all previous orders.

Section 18. ENFORCEMENT. Peace officers, City of Edinburg Code Enforcement Officers, and Edinburg Fire Marshals are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days.


Section 19. USE OF FINES. All amounts collected for violations of this Order shall be used to purchase emergency supplies such as personal protective equipment for first responders.

Section 20. PUBLIC NOTICE. The City of Edinburg shall 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.

Section 21. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Order or 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 rest of the order.

ORDERED this the 30th day of April, 2020.

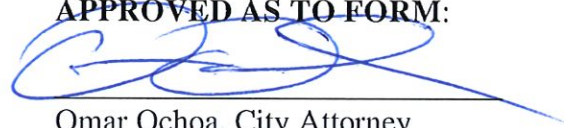
CITY OF EDINBURG, TEXAS


Richard R. Molina, Mayor

ATTEST:


Myra L. Ayala, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Omar Ochoa, City Attorney

