

REVISED DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
ISSUED MARCH 27, 2020
EFFECTIVE 5:00 P.M., SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak should be characterized as pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 85,356 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 1,246 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott declared a public health disaster on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, reports received as of March 27, 2020, report more than 1,731 cases in Texas, including 23 deaths;

WHEREAS, Coronavirus as compared to H1N1, Swine Flu, had a fatality rate of only 0.02 percent; and

WHEREAS, Covid-19 is more contagious than seasonal influenza once symptoms appear, it may be possible to control by testing widely and quickly isolating those who have the disease; and

WHEREAS, DSHS, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and other state agencies continue their ongoing preparations so that all of state government is working together to limit the spread of the virus and protect Texans; and

WHEREAS, the estimated difference between a 0.1 percent and a 1.0 percent fatality rate could result in 360,000 dead Americans; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of local, state and national government is dependent on how we respond when the difference in fatality rates demands extreme measures be taken to combat the coronavirus as compared to the seasonal flu; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends that citizens stop handshaking, clean hands at the door, schedule regular hand washing, avoid touching faces and cover coughs and sneezes, disinfect surfaces, like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly, and increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends the use of videoconferencing for meetings when possible, and adjusting or postponing large meetings or gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends citizens stay home if they are feeling sick or when they have a sick family member in their home; and

WHEREAS, households with vulnerable seniors and those with underlying health conditions should conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States and in Texas has signaled that transmission of the virus is no longer limited to those who traveled to China, or had contact with travelers who have visited china; and

WHEREAS, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control recommends restricting gatherings over 10; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Prairie View, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Prairie View residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Prairie View will work collaboratively with Waller County to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, I declared a Public Health Emergency which included rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, as of today a Prairie View A&M University staff member has tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by this Revised Declaration of Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, David Allen, the Mayor of the City of Prairie View, Texas have determined that further extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Prairie View, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Prairie View emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.

6. Pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.
7. The City Secretary is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION.
8. This Revised declaration shall take effect at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
9. The Chief of Police and any other person designated by the Mayor may update restrictions set out in Exhibit A as necessary to respond to the evolving circumstances of this outbreak during the duration of this Declaration and any extension by the City Council without the issuance of a new Declaration.
10. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.

ORDERED this 27th day of March, 2020.



MAYOR DAVID ALLEN
City of Prairie View, Texas

EXHIBIT A
LOCAL DISASTER RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE GATHERINGS
EFFECTIVE 5:00 P.M., SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

Section 1. Stay at Home; Social Distancing Requirement; and Essential Businesses and Operations

1. **Stay at home or place of residence.** With exceptions as outlined below, all individuals currently living within the City of Prairie View are ordered to stay home or at their place of residence except as allowed in this Emergency Order. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as reasonably possible maintain Social Distancing Requirements set forth herein. All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses and Operations all as defined below.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this directive, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter. Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their homes and stay at a safe alternative location. For purposes of this Emergency Order, homes or residences include hotels, motels, and shared rental units, shelters, and similar facilities.

2. **Non-essential business and operations must cease.** All businesses and operations in Prairie View, except Essential Businesses and Operations as defined below, are required to cease all activities within the City except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).

All Essential Businesses and Operations are encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent possible, Essential Businesses and Operations shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public at all times, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

3. **Prohibited activities.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes permitted by this Emergency Order. Pursuant to current guidance from the CDC, any gathering of more than ten people is prohibited unless exempted by this Emergency Order. Nothing in this Emergency Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or residence.

All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, children's play centers, playgrounds, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, movie theaters, concert and music halls, and country clubs or social clubs shall be closed to the public.

This Emergency Order amends and supersedes the Emergency Order from March 18, 2020 as extended by Ordinance of the City Council.

4. **Prohibited and permitted travel.** All travel, including, but not limited to, travel by automobile, motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, train, plane, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined herein, is prohibited. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent possible. This Emergency Order allows travel into or out of the City to maintain Essential Business and Operations and Minimum Basic Operations, only.
5. **Leaving the home for essential activities is permitted.** For purposes of this Emergency Order, individuals may leave their residence to perform any of the following Essential Activities:
 - a. **For health and safety.** 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 (including but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.
 - b. **For necessary supplies and services.** To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
 - c. **For outdoor activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19, and therefor shall be closed.
 - d. **For certain types of work.** To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations (which, as defined below, includes Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services

Operations, Essential Government Functions, and Essential Infrastructure) or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Emergency Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.

- e. **To take care of others.** To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, or pets as allowed by this Emergency Order.

6. **Elderly people and those who are vulnerable as a result of illness should take additional precautions.** People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including elderly people and those who are sick, are urged to stay in their residence to the greatest extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care. Nothing in this Emergency Order shall be read to contradict or prevent the state or county public health departments from issuing and enforcing isolation and quarantine orders pursuant to Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

7. **Healthcare and Public Health Operations.** For purposes of this Emergency Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services through Healthcare or Public Health Operations.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze, and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies (including operations research and development, manufacture and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; reproductive health care providers; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; home healthcare services providers; mental health and substance providers; other healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Specifically included in Healthcare and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissues and paper towel products.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, as broadly defined. Healthcare and Public

Health Operations does not include fitness and exercise gym, spas, salons and barber shops, tattoo parlors and similar facilities.

8. **Human Services Operations.** For purposes of this Emergency Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Human Services Operations, including any provider funded by the Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Department of Children and Family Services, or Medicaid that is providing services to the public, including state-operated, institutional, or community-based settings providing human services to the public.

Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; day care centers, day care homes, group day care homes; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

Human Service Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

9. **Essential Infrastructure.** For purposes of this Emergency Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to offer, provision, operate, maintain and repair Essential Infrastructure.

Essential infrastructure includes, but is not limited to; food production, distribution, and sale; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction); building management and maintenance; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal and internet, video, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Infrastructure shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

- 10. Essential Governmental Functions.** For purposes of this Emergency Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from this Emergency Order.

Essential Government Functions means all services provided by the State, municipality, county, political subdivision or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and including contractors performing Essential Government Functions and identified employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

This Emergency Order does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this Emergency Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions.

- 11. Businesses covered by this Emergency Order.** For the purposes of this Emergency Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure.

- 12. Essential Businesses and Operations.** For the purposes of this Emergency order, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:

- a. **Stores that sell groceries and medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residence and Essential Businesses and Operations;

- b. **Food, beverage, and cannabis production and agriculture.** Food and beverage, manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; licensed medical and adult use cannabis dispensaries and licensed cannabis cultivation centers; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities;
- c. **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.
- d. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- e. **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities;
- f. **Financial institutions.** Banks, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited to payday lenders, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit union, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and future exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products;
- g. **Hardware supply store.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing and heating material;
- h. **Critical trades.** Building and Construction Tradesman and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, and exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and essential Businesses Operations;
- i. **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods or services to end users or through commercial channels;

- j. **Educational institutions.** Educational institutions-including public and private pre-k-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Emergency Order does not amend or supersede any statewide closure or the authority of a district to determine it will remain closed.
- k. **Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services and laundry service providers;
- l. **Restaurants for consumption off-premise.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Emergency Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the virus's propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property.
- m. **Supplies to work from home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people that work from home;
- n. **Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronic, household appliance; IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients an components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security;
- o. **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Emergency Order;

- p. **Home-based care and services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child's home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery;
- q. **Residential facilities.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness;
- r. **Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services);
- s. **Day care centers for those providing essential services as defined by this Emergency Order.**
- t. **Manufacturing, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.
- u. **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services.
- v. **Funeral services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services.

13. **Minimum Basic Operations.** For the purposes of this Emergency Order, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

- a. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
- b. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely

14. Essential Travel. For the purposes of this Emergency Order, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section.

- a. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses and Operations, or Minimum Basic Operations.
- 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 any other related service.
- d. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.
- e. Travel required by law enforcement or court order, including to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement.
- f. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the City.

15. Social Distancing Requirements. For purposes of this Emergency Order, Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

- a. **Required measures.** Essential Businesses and Operations and businesses engaged in Minimum basic Operations must take proactive measures to ensure compliance with Social Distancing Requirements, including where possible;
 - i. **Designate six-foot distances.** Designating with signage, tape, or by other means a six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance;
 - ii. **Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products.** Having hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers;
 - iii. **Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations.** Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers; and
 - iv. **Online and remote access.** Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or

remotely.