



**BRAZOS COUNTY
BRYAN, TEXAS**

ORDER

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Brazos County Judge Duane Peters issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020 due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President 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;

WHEREAS, the Judge of Brazos County issued a Shelter in Place Order on March 23, 2020 and amended that order on March 24, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the World Health Organization indicated that the United States has the potential to become the center of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order reopening certain businesses in Texas for in-person services so long as certain workplace safety rules are followed;

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation Amending paragraph 5 of Executive Order 26 reducing the number of outdoor gatherings from 500 to 100 that Mayors and County Judges can impose additional restrictions on.

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020 Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will pause any further phases to reopen Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020 Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-27 postponing all surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of a patient in four (4) counties in Texas that currently have high rates of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020 Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-28 which closed all bars and reduced dine-in occupancy to fifty percent (50%) capacity.

WHEREAS, the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the Brazos County Community and rates of infection are increasing at an alarming rate and the number of people ending up in the hospital, ICU, or on ventilators is also dramatically rising despite efforts by local authorities to control the spread;



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WHEREAS, this Order is necessary to stress the importance to **EVERYONE** that it is time to unite to protect the lives, health and financial welfare of Brazos County and the State of Texas. It seems as though every day we take a step backward towards devastation instead of forward towards prosperity.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Duane Peters, County Judge of Brazos County, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and in accordance with guidance from the Brazos County Health Authority and the Brazos County Health District as well as additional input from medical, business and government staff as well as other Elected Officials in Brazos County, do here by Order as follows:

- I. Effective within five (5) days from the Date of Issue of this Order all Businesses “Commercial Entities” whether they have public contact or not must implement a “Health and Safety Policy” that provides for requiring Face Coverings and Social Distancing Protocols. This Policy must be posted in a conspicuous place on the outside of the business to alert all who enter the business of the policy.**

- II. All individuals over the age of ten (10), including employees, customers, visitors, invitees and contractors who are out in public and/or entering a place of business shall use all reasonable efforts to comply with the Face Coverings and Social Distancing Protocols of businesses. All individuals over the age of ten (10) shall also use all reasonable efforts in general when not in businesses but in public places by wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing recommendations of maintaining six (6) feet of separation, or wearing face coverings when this is not feasible.**

*Face Coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief.

This Order acknowledges that face coverings are not “reasonable” in all situations such as:

- When eating or drinking,
- Driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk
- When operating outdoor equipment
- While outside or engaging in physical activity outside
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, such as a Bank.

Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self- isolation when sick.



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All individuals should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and care for face coverings.

Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- i. Washing hand before you leave home and when you return
- ii. Staying at least six feet away from others
- iii. Avoiding touching your face
- iv. Not using disposable masks more than three times, and
- v. Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

Consistent with Executive Order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.

Additionally, at this time, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on businesses who do not comply with this Order (subject to change).

***For a sample “Health and Safety Policy” or a “notice template”, please see www.brazoscountytexas.gov or for additional guidance on policies and procedures see www.brazoshealth.org/operationrestart.**

VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE IS REQUESTED, NEEDED AND EXPECTED FROM EVERYONE.

ORDERED this 26 day of June, 2020.

**Duane Peters, County Judge
Brazos County, Texas**