



City of Abilene City Council Agenda

Weldon Hurt, Mayor Pro-tem
Shane Price, Council Member
Jack Rentz, Council Member
Robert Hanna, City Manager

Anthony Williams, Mayor

Donna Albus, Council Member
Kyle McAlister, Council Member
Travis Craver, Council Member
Stanley Smith, City Attorney
Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary

EMERGENCY CALLED SPECIAL MEETING

In Continuance of the Meeting held at 11:15 a.m. on 4/30

Notice is hereby given of a virtual meeting of the City Council of City of Abilene to be held on April 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Virtually via Zoom meeting, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items. All agenda items are subject to action. The City Council reserves the right to meet in a closed session on any agenda item should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE TEXAS FLAG

REGULAR AGENDA - ORDINANCES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS - RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution:** Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster Issued April 13, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending City Council meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received 48 hours prior to the meetings. Please call 325-676-6208.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 30th day of April, 2020 at 12:30 p.m.

Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Governor Greg Abbott has granted a temporary suspension of certain rules to allow for telephone or video conference public meetings in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people, due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) public health emergency.

In an effort to reduce the spread of the virus, for the City Council meeting will be closed to in person attendance by the public, individuals will be able to address the Council via telephone conference call.

There are two phone numbers to call for this meeting:

- 1) To call in to a Listen Only version of the meeting, call 888-475-4499. The meeting ID is 990-1978-2481**
- 2) To call in to Speak on a public hearing on an agenda item please call 877-853-5257. The meeting ID is 854-897-1503. Please note, this line needs to be used only when the agenda item you wish to speak on is being presented.**

Pursuant to Section 551.007 of the Texas Government Code, individuals wishing to address the Council for items listed as public hearings will be recognized when the public hearing is opened. For individuals wishing to speak on a non-public hearing item, they may either address the Council during the Public Comments portion of the meeting or when the item is considered by the City Council.

The agenda packet can be viewed online here: <https://www.abilenetx.gov/714/Agendas-Minutes>



**City Council
Agenda Memo**

City Council Meeting Date: 4/30/2020

TO:

FROM: Robert Hanna, City Manager

**SUBJECT: 1. Resolution: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Public Hearing, and
Take Action on Modifying and Extending the Declaration of Local Disaster
Issued April 13, 2020**

GENERAL INFORMATION

On April 13, 2020, the City Council adopted a Further Modification and Extension of Declaration of Local Disaster due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That extension lasts through April 30, 2020.

On April 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-18 which is effective state-wide through May 15, 2020.

More information on the Modification and Extension of the City's Declaration of Local Disaster will be provided during the meeting.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

BOARD OR COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 4th Resolution Extending Declaration of Local Disaster COVID-19 (shelter in place)
clean draft (with CM changes)
2. 4th Resolution Extending Declaration of Local Disaster COVID-19 (shelter in place)
redline draft (with CM changes)
3. GA-18

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FURTHER MODIFYING ITS EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF DISASTER ISSUED ON APRIL 13, 2020.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Abilene, by proclamation, issued a Declaration of Local Disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Renewing and Continuing the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Issued on March 16, 2020, which prohibited the social gathering of more than 10 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which created a limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which continued the limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-18, effective until May 15, 2020, which expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, because of the continuing risk of the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the intent to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services and commerce to continue, and the desire to slow the spread of COVID-19 to maximum extent possible, this Order is required; and

WHEREAS, this Order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the City of Abilene and Taylor County, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must continue to be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19 in the City of Abilene; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to authorize additional authority as described herein pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as amended, Texas Government Code, and provide rules to protect the health of persons in the City of Abilene, pursuant to the Texas Government Code and Texas Health and Safety Code.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DECLARED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

1. The foregoing recitals as incorporated herein and made findings of fact.
2. That the City Council, effective immediately, hereby renews and continues the local state of disaster for the City of Abilene, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster continues activation of the emergency management plan for the City of Abilene. The furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration is hereby authorized. The appropriate preparedness and response aspects of the plan are continued.
5. The use of all available resources of the City of Abilene that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster are hereby authorized.
6. To the extent permitted by law, any local ordinance or administrative rule prescribing the procedures for conduct of City business or any local ordinance or administrative rule that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster, including any local ordinance or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement with would impede the City's emergency response necessary to cope with this declared disaster, are hereby suspended, but only for the duration of this declared local disaster and only for that limited purpose.
7. Pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Government Code, the City of Abilene may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area within the incorporated limits of the City of Abilene and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.
8. Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, the City of Abilene may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease.
9. The intent of this Order is to protect the physical health and well-being of City of Abilene residents, to protect the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents and businesses, and to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible while safeguarding the Constitutional liberties of City of Abilene residents by utilizing the least restrictive means possible and encouraging the highest level of personal responsibility.

10. Persons who are sick and currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms have a responsibility to take actions necessary to protect the physical health and well-being of others.

Any person who is sick or currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, is hereby ORDERED to stay home until such time that:

- (a) he or she has had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; and
- (b) his or her other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath has improved); and
- (c) at least 14 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

If any person in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, all persons in the household should follow CDC recommended guidelines to protect themselves from exposure and to protect the public from further community spread.

11. People over the age of 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.

This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

12. To protect the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents, including those who are the most economically vulnerable and disadvantaged, we have a shared responsibility to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as to protect and promote the ability of all persons to provide for their own financial and material needs, including food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare.

All businesses and employers are hereby ORDERED to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to increase social distancing in the normal course of business activities, and to provide for a safe and healthy work environment.

All persons are hereby ORDERED to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to increase social distancing in the normal course of business activities.

Social distancing is generally understood to mean staying at least six feet away from other people, avoiding mass gatherings, working from home if possible, canceling or postponing large meetings, and not shaking hands. Where social distancing is not possible in the normal course of business activities, extreme care should be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to, and transmittal of, germs and COVID-19.

13. The City of Abilene hereby adopts and incorporates herein Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-18.

Every person shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened 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 (DHS) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 3.0 or any subsequent version, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.

"Reopened services" shall consist of the following to the extent they are not already "essential services:"

- a. Retail Services that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep.
- b. In-store retail services, for retail establishments that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the retail establishment.
- c. Dine-in restaurant services, for restaurants that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant; provided, however, that (i) this applies only to restaurants that have less than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages and are therefore not required to post the 51% sign required by Texas law as determined by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and (ii) valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.
- d. Movie theaters that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening.
- e. Shopping malls that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall; provided, however, that within shopping malls, the food-court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.
- f. Museums and libraries that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy; provided, however, that (i) local public museums and local public libraries may so operate only if permitted by the local government, and (ii) any components of museums or libraries that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed.
- g. Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.
- h. Golf course operations.

- i. Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government.

Furthermore, people shall avoid visiting gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons.

For those restaurants that are not “reopened services”, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged.

This order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling, or other outdoor sports, 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.

People shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities, except as allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order GA-18.

People are encouraged, but not required, to wear appropriate face coverings.

The City Manager is authorized without further Council action to enforce these provisions to the fullest extent allowed by law, including, but not limited to, using the Abilene Police Department or other City Departments to control the number of persons entering a building as is necessary to maintain adequate social distancing inside the building.

14. In the event the Governor of the State of Texas amends his Executive Order GA-18, this Declaration and Order is automatically amended without further Council action to reflect said amendments to the Governor’s Executive Order. It being the express intent of the City Council and this Declaration and Order to follow the Governor’s Executive Order.
15. For purposes of this Declaration and 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.
16. When people need to leave their places of residence, they should at all times as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 15.

17. All public, private and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Abilene and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period to the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District the following information:

- (a) The number of COVID-19 tests performed;
- (b) The number of positive COVID-19 tests; and
- (c) The patient names and demographic information of positive COVID-19 tests.

This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City of Abilene, and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

18. That any City ordinance or regulation imposing a time requirement for payment, filing or appealing a decision, may be extended by the Mayor without further confirmation by the City Council.

19. That the Mayor may suspend or modify any other ordinance or regulation of the City of Abilene for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this resolution unless continued or renewed by the City Council.

20. That City Council meetings shall be rescheduled as posted and may be continued in accordance with alternate measures as permitted by law.

21. That all other committee, commission or board meetings of the City of Abilene are suspended except as required to consider applications subject to state law-imposed deadlines, or as may be deemed reasonable and necessary for the public good as determined by the Mayor.

22. That the City Manager or designee of the City Manager is authorized, without further approval of the City Council, to:

- (a) Make application for local, state and federal assistance as necessary and/or applicable;
- (b) Accept on behalf of the City services, gifts, grants, equipment, supplies, and/or materials whether from private, nonprofit, or governmental sources;
- (c) Enter into Interlocal cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding with other cities, counties, or jurisdictions to provide for law enforcement assistance or other shared services to assist in this Resolution or the COVID-19 pandemic;

- (d) Contract for expenditures for budgeted items and emergency expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$250,000; and
- (e) Defer any fines or fees imposed by the City.

After cessation of this emergency and state of disaster, the City Manager shall provide the City Council a list of all actions taken under this paragraph.

23. That although not required by law and out of an abundance of caution, the City Manager is authorized to (and any prior acts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are ratified):

- (a) Close, including closure to the public, of any City offices, facilities, or properties, including parks, playgrounds, or playground equipment; and
- (b) Provide city services by means other than in-person delivery, such as accepting permit applications online or by mail only, and/or to cease any city service that are not required by state or federal law.

24. That any ordinances, rules, or regulations of the City of Abilene, Texas, that conflict with this Resolution are hereby suspended, such suspension to remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or until there is a subsequent Resolution of this Council, whichever occurs first.

25. That pursuant to Section 418.020(d) of the Texas Government Code, the City of Abilene is authorized to:

- (a) Temporarily or permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites required for installation of temporary housing units or emergency shelters for disaster victims; and
- (b) Enter into arrangements necessary to prepare or equip the site to use the housing units or shelters, including arrangements for the purchase of temporary housing units or shelters and the payment of transportation charges.

26. That failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.

27. Pursuant to Section 418.173, Government Code, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, failure to comply with this Order 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.

28. That any violation of this Resolution, Declaration and Order can be enjoined by the City of Abilene by a suit filed in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Resolution, Declaration and Order or in the Code of Ordinances, City of Abilene, Texas.
29. That nothing in this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or prior ordinance; nor shall any legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Resolution.
30. All provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order should be interpreted to effectuate its intent.
31. That this Declaration and Order is effective at 11:59 p.m., April 30, 2020 and continues until 11:59 p.m. May 15, 2020 unless otherwise modified, terminated or extended.
32. That the terms and provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be deemed to be severable and that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein shall be declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein, and the remainder of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall continue in full force and effect the same as if such invalid or unconstitutional provision had never been a part hereof.

ADOPTED this 30th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Anthony Williams, Mayor

Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary

APPROVED:

Stanley Smith, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, FURTHER MODIFYING ITS EXTENSION OF DECLARATION OF DISASTER ISSUED ON APRIL 13~~MARCH 30~~, 2020.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Abilene, by proclamation, issued a Declaration of Local Disaster; and

~~**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Abilene issued his Order prohibiting any gathering of 250 or more persons within the city limits beginning March 18, 2020; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Abilene issued his First Modified Order prohibiting any gathering of 50 or more persons within the city limits beginning at 8:00 p.m., March 22, 2020, and of 10 or more beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the day that the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District announces the confirmation of a positive COVID-19 test result; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-08, effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension; and~~

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Renewing and Continuing the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Issued on March 16, 2020, which prohibited the social gathering of more than 10 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which created a limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 14, 2020; and

~~**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2020, the City Council issued its Resolution Further Modifying its Extension of Declaration of Disaster, which continued the limited shelter in place through 11:59 p.m., April 30, 2020; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-14, effective until April 30, 2020, which defined "essential services" for the entire state, ordered Texans to minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household, and required remote telework for all services except for "essential services" that cannot be provided through remote telework; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, on April 27, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued his Executive Order GA-18, effective until May 15, 2020, which expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster; and~~

WHEREAS, because of the continuing risk of the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the intent to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while

enabling essential services and commerce to continue, and the desire to slow the spread of COVID-19 to maximum extent possible, this Order is required; and

WHEREAS, this Order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the City of Abilene and Taylor County, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must continue to be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19 in the City of Abilene; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to authorize additional authority as described herein pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, as amended, Texas Government Code, and provide rules to protect the health of persons in the City of Abilene, pursuant to the Texas Government Code and Texas Health and Safety Code.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND DECLARED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

1. The foregoing recitals as incorporated herein and made findings of fact.
2. That the City Council, effective immediately, hereby renews and continues the local state of disaster for the City of Abilene, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code.
3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this renewal and continuation of the declaration of a local state of disaster continues activation of the emergency management plan for the City of Abilene. The furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration is hereby authorized. The appropriate preparedness and response aspects of the plan are continued.
5. The use of all available resources of the City of Abilene that are reasonably necessary to cope with this disaster are hereby authorized.
6. To the extent permitted by law, any local ordinance or administrative rule prescribing the procedures for conduct of City business or any local ordinance or administrative rule that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster, including any local ordinance or administrative rule regarding contracting or procurement with would impede the City's emergency response necessary to cope with this declared

disaster, are hereby suspended, but only for the duration of this declared local disaster and only for that limited purpose.

7. Pursuant to Section 418.108(g) of the Government Code, the City of Abilene may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area within the incorporated limits of the City of Abilene and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that area.
8. Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, the City of Abilene may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the municipality, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease.
9. The intent of this Order is to protect the physical health and well-being of City of Abilene residents, to protect the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents and businesses, and to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible while safeguarding the Constitutional liberties of City of Abilene residents by utilizing the least restrictive means possible and encouraging the highest level of personal responsibility.
10. Persons who are sick and currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms have a responsibility to take actions necessary to protect the physical health and well-being of others.

Any person who is sick or currently experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, is hereby ORDERED to stay home until such time that:

- (a) he or she has had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers; and
- (b) his or her other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath has improved); and
- (c) at least 14 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

If any person in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, all persons in the household should follow CDC recommended guidelines to protect themselves from exposure and to protect the public from further community spread. ~~are hereby ORDERED to stay home. Members of the household may not travel to work, school, or any other community function until released from quarantine by the health authority. This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.~~

11. ~~All persons in the City of Abilene are hereby ORDERED to stay home, except for travel related to Essential Activities. Essential Activities means any action or effort that is necessary for gainful employment or for the financial welfare of their family. It also means any activity necessary for obtaining medical care, food, shelter or clothing that may be necessary for the safety and well-being of themselves or their family. It also means any action necessary for the preservation of a person's mental or spiritual health, including attending any religious gathering.~~
12. People over the age of 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation. ~~Persons at higher risk for severe illness have a responsibility to take actions necessary to protect their own personal physical health and well-being and to mitigate their own risk and potential exposure to COVID-19. Any person who believes he or she is at higher risk for severe illness and who believes he or she may be compromised from exposure to COVID-19 is hereby ORDERED to stay home as long as this order remains in place or until the person determines he or she is no longer at higher risk for severe illness.~~

This order does not prohibit any person from leaving his or her home to seek necessary medical or emergency care. Persons are encouraged to call ahead to their medical providers to let them know they are coming.

13. To protect the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents, including those who are the most economically vulnerable and disadvantaged, we have a shared responsibility to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as to protect and promote the ability of all persons to provide for their own financial and material needs, including food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare.

All businesses and employers are hereby ORDERED to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to increase social distancing in the normal course of business activities, and to provide for a safe and healthy work environment.

All persons are hereby ORDERED to take actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to increase social distancing in the normal course of business activities. Social distancing is generally understood to mean staying at least six feet away from other people, avoiding mass gatherings, working from home if possible, canceling or postponing large meetings, and not shaking hands. Where social distancing is not possible in the normal course of business activities, extreme care should be taken to reduce the risk of exposure to, and transmittal of, germs and COVID-19.

14. ~~The City of Abilene hereby adopts and incorporates herein Pursuant to~~ Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-184,⁵

~~Every~~ person shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and ~~shall~~ 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 (DHS) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 3.0 or any subsequent version, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.

"Reopened services" shall consist of the following to the extent they are not already "essential services:"

- a. Retail Services that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep.
- b. In-store retail services, for retail establishments that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the retail establishment.
- c. Dine-in restaurant services, for restaurants that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant; provided, however, that (i) this applies only to restaurants that have less than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages and are therefore not required to post the 51% sign required by Texas law as determined by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and (ii) valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.
- d. Movie theaters that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening.
- e. Shopping malls that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall; provided, however, that within shopping malls, the food-court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.
- f. Museums and libraries that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy; provided, however, that (i) local public museums and local public libraries may so operate only if permitted by the local government, and (ii) any components of museums or libraries that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed.
- g. Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.
- h. Golf course operations.
- i. Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determine by the local government.

Furthermore, ~~people~~persons shall avoid ~~eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or~~ visiting gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as

bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons.

For those restaurants that are not “reopened services”, However, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks ~~remains~~ allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of his Executive Order.

This order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling, or other outdoor sports, 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.

People shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities, except as allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order GA-18.

People are encouraged, but not required, to wear appropriate face coverings.

~~Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Governor’s Executive Order GA-14 and this Declaration, all businesses, jobs, and workers are essential to the financial health and well-being of our local economy and therefore are essential to the financial health and well-being of City of Abilene residents. Persons who are employed need to stay employed. Persons who lack employment need to gain employment. Businesses that are able to remain open need to remain open, provided that the following businesses, due to the close personal nature of their services, are hereby ORDERED to close for the duration of this order:~~

- ~~(a) Hair salons, hair stylists, barber shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors, piercing businesses, tanning salons and all similar personal grooming related businesses that require close personal contact; and~~
- ~~(b) Food truck gatherings of two or more food trucks; and~~
- ~~(c) Game rooms, bowling alleys, movie theaters, arcades, miniature golf courses, gyms, fitness centers, or other similar entertainment venues; and~~
- ~~(d) Sexually Oriented Businesses; and~~
- ~~(e) Smoking rooms in tobacco stores (it is the intent to limit the closure only to the smoking rooms and not the sale of tobacco products).~~

- ~~(f) To the extent the Governor of Texas has closed golf courses, they are closed within the city limits of Abilene.~~
- ~~(g) Tennis courts (public and private), provided that tennis courts wholly contained within a person's residential premise are not required to close.~~

~~The Mayor is authorized to order the closure of additional businesses without further Council action if, in his opinion, the business poses an imminent risk to the public's health, safety and welfare.~~

~~Employers, employees, and customers have a shared responsibility to promote public health in the normal course of business activities. Businesses are hereby ORDERED to limit the number of customers in their commercial establishments in order to maintain good social distancing requirements as further defined in Section 14 of this order. Retail stores has the additional restrictions:~~

- ~~(h) Retail stores are ORDERED to reduce their maximum building occupancy by 50%; and~~
- ~~(i) Retail stores are ORDERED to further reduce their total building occupancy, as may be required, by the number necessary to maintain good social distancing requirements, as further defined in Section 14 of this order, should the 50% building occupancy reduction prove ineffective in maintaining social distancing requirements; and~~
- ~~(j) Retail stores are ORDERED to control the ingress and egress of their buildings so that they maintain good social distancing requirements, as further defined in Section 14 of this order, inside their buildings.~~

~~The Mayor is authorized by order to further limit the number of persons allowed in any business without further Council action if, in his opinion, the business has failed to exercise the necessary responsibility to limit their customer's ingress or egress on their own.~~

The City Manager is authorized without further Council action to enforce these provisions to the fullest extent allowed by law, including, but not limited to, using the Abilene Police Department or other City Departments to control the number of persons entering a building as is necessary to maintain adequate social distancing inside the building.

15. In the event the Governor of the State of Texas amends his Executive Order GA-18, this Declaration and Order is automatically amended without further Council action to reflect said

amendments to the Governor's Executive Order. It being the express intent of the City Council and this Declaration and Order to follow the Governor's Executive Order.

16. For purposes of this Declaration and 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.
17. When people need to leave their places of residence, they should at all times as reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 14.
18. All public, private and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Abilene and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period to the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District the following information:
 - (a) The number of COVID-19 tests performed;
 - (b) The number of positive COVID-19 tests; and
 - (c) The patient names and demographic information of positive COVID-19 tests.

This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City of Abilene, and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.
19. That any City ordinance or regulation imposing a time requirement for payment, filing or appealing a decision, may be extended by the Mayor without further confirmation by the City Council.
20. That the Mayor may suspend or modify any other ordinance or regulation of the City of Abilene for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this resolution unless continued or renewed by the City Council.
21. That City Council meetings shall be rescheduled as posted and may be continued in accordance with alternate measures as permitted by law.
22. That all other committee, commission or board meetings of the City of Abilene are suspended except as required to consider applications subject to state law-imposed deadlines, or as may be deemed reasonable and necessary for the public good as determined by the Mayor.

23. That the City Manager or designee of the City Manager is authorized, without further approval of the City Council, to:

- (a) Make application for local, state and federal assistance as necessary and/or applicable;
- (b) Accept on behalf of the City services, gifts, grants, equipment, supplies, and/or materials whether from private, nonprofit, or governmental sources;
- (c) Enter into Interlocal cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding with other cities, counties, or jurisdictions to provide for law enforcement assistance or other shared services to assist in this Resolution or the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (d) Contract for expenditures for budgeted items and emergency expenditures in an amount not to exceed \$250,000; and
- (e) Defer any fines or fees imposed by the City.

After cessation of this emergency and state of disaster, the City Manager shall provide the City Council a list of all actions taken under this paragraph.

24. That although not required by law and out of an abundance of caution, the City Manager is authorized (and any prior acts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are ratified):

- (a) Close, including closure to the public, of any City offices, facilities, or properties, including parks, playgrounds, or playground equipment; and
- (b) Provide city services by means other than in-person delivery, such as accepting permit applications online or by mail only, and/or to cease any city service that are not required by state or federal law.

25. That any ordinances, rules, or regulations of the City of Abilene, Texas, that conflict with this Resolution are hereby suspended, such suspension to remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or until there is a subsequent Resolution of this Council, whichever occurs first.

26. That pursuant to Section 418.020(d) of the Texas Government Code, the City of Abilene is authorized to:

- (a) Temporarily or permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites required for installation of temporary housing units or emergency shelters for disaster victims; and
- (b) Enter into arrangements necessary to prepare or equip the site to use the housing units or shelters, including arrangements for the purchase of

temporary housing units or shelters and the payment of transportation charges.

27. That failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.
28. Pursuant to Section 418.173, Government Code, and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, failure to comply with this Order 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 find and confinement.
29. ~~That a violation of this Order pertaining to restricting gatherings to 10 or less persons shall be an offense and shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail up to 180 days. That a violation of any other provision of this Order shall be an offense and shall be punishable by a fine only not to exceed \$1,000. That this declaration also hereby authorizes the use of any other lawfully available enforcement tools.~~
30. That any violation of this Resolution, Declaration and Order can be enjoined by the City of Abilene by a suit filed in a court of competent jurisdiction, and this remedy shall be in addition to any penal provision in this Resolution, Declaration and Order or in the Code of Ordinances, City of Abilene, Texas.
31. That nothing in this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing, under any act or prior ordinance; nor shall any legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired, or affected by this Resolution.
32. All provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order should be interpreted to effectuate its intent.
33. That this Declaration and Order is effective at ~~11:59 p.m. noon~~, ~~Tuesday~~, April ~~30~~14, 2020 and continues until 11:59 p.m. ~~May~~April ~~15~~30, 2020 unless otherwise modified, terminated or extended.
34. That the terms and provisions of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall be deemed to be severable and that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein shall be declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word herein, and the remainder of this Resolution, Declaration and Order shall continue in full force

and effect the same as if such invalid or unconstitutional provision had never been a part hereof.

ADOPTED this ~~30~~¹³th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Anthony Williams, Mayor

Shawna Atkinson, City Secretary

APPROVED:

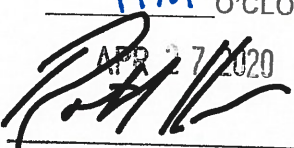
Stanley Smith, City Attorney



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 27, 2020

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

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Secretary of State

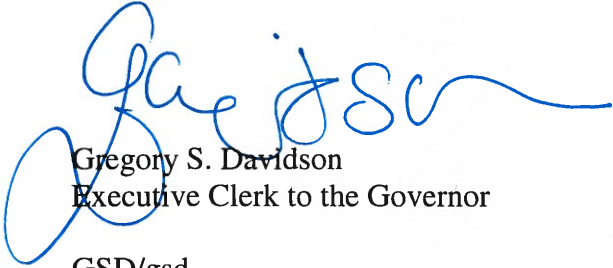
Dear Secretary Hughs:

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

Executive Order No. GA-18 relating to the expanded reopening of services as part
of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to 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

POST OFFICE BOX 12428 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 512-463-2000 (VOICE) DIAL 7-1-1 FOR RELAY SERVICES

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
April 27, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 18

Relating to the expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

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, on April 12, 2020, I issued a proclamation renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in 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 renewed that determination on April 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, I have issued executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, 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, shortly before Executive Order GA-08 expired, I issued Executive Order GA-14 on March 31, 2020, based on the President's announcement that the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020, in light of advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, and also based on guidance by DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and Dr. Birx that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-14 superseded Executive Order GA-08 and expanded the social-distancing restrictions and other obligations for Texans that are aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, including by limiting social gatherings and in-person contact with people (other than those in the same household) to providing or obtaining "essential services," and by expressly adopting federal guidance that provides a list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue as "essential services" during the COVID-19 response; and

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WHEREAS, after more than two weeks of having in effect the heightened restrictions like those required by Executive Order GA-14, which have saved lives, it was clear that the disease still presented a serious threat across Texas that could persist in certain areas, but also that COVID-19 had wrought havoc on many Texas businesses and workers affected by the restrictions that were necessary to protect human life; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020, I therefore issued Executive Order GA-17, creating the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas to study and make recommendations on safely and strategically restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the Lone Star State—work, school, entertainment, and culture; and

WHEREAS, also on April 17, 2020, I issued Executive Order GA-16 to replace Executive Order GA-14, and while Executive Order GA-16 generally continued through April 30, 2020, the same social-distancing restrictions and other obligations for Texans according to federal guidelines, it offered a safe, strategic first step to Open Texas, including permitting retail pick-up and delivery services; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-16 is set to expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Texas must continue to protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; 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 immediately, and continuing through May 15, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the

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recommendations of the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, the White House Coronavirus Task Force, and the CDC:

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 or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. People over the age of 65, however, are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.

"Essential services" shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 3.0 or any subsequent version, 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 any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov or by visiting the TDEM website at www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices.

"Reopened services" shall consist of the following to the extent they are not already "essential services:"

1. Retail services that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep.
2. Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020:
 - a) In-store retail services, for retail establishments that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the retail establishment.
 - b) Dine-in restaurant services, for restaurants that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the restaurant; provided, however, that (a) this applies only to restaurants that have less than 51 percent of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages and are therefore not required to post the 51 percent sign required by Texas law as determined by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and (b) valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.
 - c) Movie theaters that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening.
 - d) Shopping malls that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the shopping mall; provided, however, that within shopping malls, the food-court dining areas, play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.
 - e) Museums and libraries that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy; provided, however, that (a) local public museums and local public libraries may so operate only if permitted by the local government, and (b) any components of museums or libraries that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed.
 - f) For Texas counties that have filed with DSHS, and are in compliance with, the requisite attestation form promulgated by DSHS regarding five or fewer cases of COVID-19, those in-store retail services, dine-in restaurant services, movie theaters, shopping malls, and museums and libraries, as otherwise defined and limited above, may operate at up to 50 percent (as opposed to 25 percent) of

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- the total listed occupancy.
- g) Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.
 - h) Golf course operations.
 - i) Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government.
 - j) Such additional services as may be enumerated by future executive orders or proclamations by the governor.

The conditions and limitations set forth above for reopened services shall not apply to essential services. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the governor may by proclamation identify any county or counties in which reopened services are thereafter prohibited, in the governor's sole discretion, based on the governor's determination in consultation with medical professionals that only essential services should be permitted in the county, including based on factors such as an increase in the transmission of COVID-19 or in the amount of COVID-19-related hospitalizations or fatalities.

In providing or obtaining essential services or reopened services, people and businesses should follow the minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS, found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus, and should implement social distancing, work from home if possible, and practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation. This includes also following, to the extent not inconsistent with the DSHS minimum standards, the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, as well as other CDC recommendations. Individuals are encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings, but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering.

Religious services should be conducted in accordance with the joint guidance issued and updated by the attorney general and governor.

People shall avoid visiting bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons. The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging, bicycling, or other outdoor sports, 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 (HHSC). Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by the HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance by students and shall not

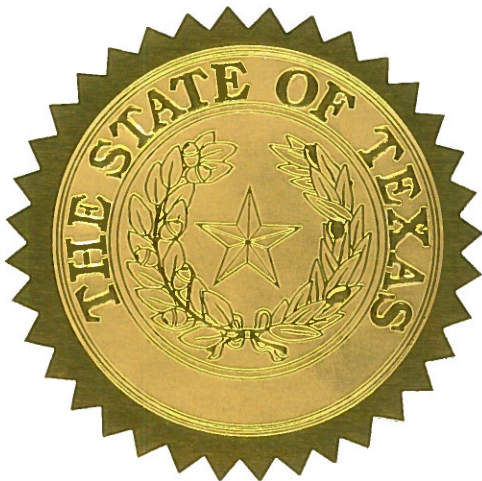
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recommence before the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Public education teachers and staff are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible, but may return to schools to conduct remote video instruction, as well as perform administrative duties, under the strict terms required by the Texas Education Agency. Private schools and institutions of higher education should establish similar terms to allow teachers and staff to return to schools to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties when it is not possible to do so remotely from home.

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 or reopened services allowed by this executive order, allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order, or expands the list of essential services or the list or scope of reopened services as set forth in 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-16, but does not supersede Executive Orders GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, GA-13, GA-15, or GA-17. This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 27th
day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Greg Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth R. Hughs", written over a horizontal line.

RUTH R. HUGHS
Secretary of State

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