



## **ORDER BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAREDO**

Emergency Order #3  
March 26, 2020

### **DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY REGARDING COVID-19 AND ORDER TO STAY AT HOME/WORK SAFE**

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

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation that declared COVID-19 as an imminent threat of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the CDC issued revised guidance regarding social distancing and mass gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the CDC issued further revised guidance that persons should avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, a Declaration of a Local Disaster was issued to allow the City of Laredo to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Laredo residents; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the City Council for the City of Laredo issued an Emergency Ordinance Instituting Emergency Measures Due to a Public Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Laredo, 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, request assistance from the governor for state resources, and access funds available for disaster relief and reimbursement at the state and federal level; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Pete Saenz, Mayor for the City of Laredo have determined that 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 PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF LAREDO:**

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Laredo pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. All prior Declarations, orders and emergency measures are superseded by this most recent Declaration and its Exhibits.
3. Stay at Home/Work Safe. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I, Pete Saenz, as Mayor for the City of Laredo, in coordination and consultation with the Local Health Authority and City of Laredo Health Director order all individuals living in the City of Laredo to Stay at Home consistent with the direction and guidelines as set out in Exhibits attached to this Declaration.
4. By this Declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the incident, and authorize the City Manager to exercise all emergency powers as are available to address this emergency.
5. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.

This proclamation shall take effect at **12:00 AM on March 28, 2020 and continuing until 11:59 PM on April 3, 2020** until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law or another order.

**ORDERED** on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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**PETE SAENZ**  
**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAREDO**

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### **STAY AT HOME/WORK SAFE ORDER**

**SECTION 1. Stay at Home or Place of Residence.** All individuals currently living within City of Laredo, are ORDERED to shelter at their place of residence except as allowed by this Order. All persons may leave their residences only to perform certain Essential Activities, or to perform or obtain services from Essential Businesses, Government Functions or services, or Critical Infrastructure as defined below. The City deems it is in the public interest to issue this Order and it is effective as of 12:00 a.m. on March 28, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, unless terminated or modified by applicable law or a subsequent Order.

**SECTION 2. Non-Essential Business operations must cease.** All businesses or operations with facilities in City of Laredo, except Essential Businesses as defined herein, are required to cease all activities within the City except for Minimum Basic Operations. For purposes of this Order, Minimum Basic Operations is the following provided that employees comply with the minimum six feet social distancing requirements to the extent possible: (1) the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences; and or (2) the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business' inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions the following while carrying out. **NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PROHIBIT ANY NON ESSENTIAL RETAIL STORE FROM TAKING ON-LINE OR TELEPHONE MERCHANDISE ORDERS TO BE FULFILLED BY RETAILER VIA CURB SIDE OR HOME DELIVERY PROVIDED THAT PROTECTIVE GEAR SUCH AS MASKS AND GLOVES ARE WORN AND NO MORE THAN TEN EMPLOEES ARE WORKING INDIDE THE STORE.**

**SECTIION 3. Essential Businesses, Government Services, and Critical Infrastructure.** These may and are strongly encouraged to remain open in accordance with the requirements.

**SECTION 4. Prohibited Activities.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or dwelling unit are prohibited, except for the Essential Activities or to perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or services, or Critical Infrastructure, as defined below. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's dwelling unit.

**SECTION 5. Travel.** All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit is prohibited, except for purposes of Essential Activities or to perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or service, or Critical Infrastructure, as defined below. To the greatest extent feasible, people riding on public transit shall comply with all requirements set forth herein.

**SECTION 6. Prior Orders.** This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference declarations, findings, and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order and prior

Orders issued by City of Laredo.

**SECTION 7. Exemption.** Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Order except that, to the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they shall, to the greatest extent feasible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirement. Individuals experiencing homelessness are strongly urged to obtain shelter. Governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation.

**SECTION 8. Essential Activities.** For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the "Essential Activities" listed herein. However, people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible, except as necessary to seek medical care.

**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 and 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, including pet supplies and food, supplies they need to work from home, household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;

**c) For Outdoor Activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, or running provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements;

**d) For Certain Types of Work.** To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business, Government Service, or Critical Infrastructure, or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations; or

**e) To Take Care of Others.** To care for a family member or pet in another household;

**f) To perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or service, or Critical Infrastructure,** as defined in this Order.

**g) To return home from or to another jurisdiction.**

**SECTION 9. Essential Government Functions.** "Essential Government Functions" means all services, including necessary administrative and support services, needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public and all agencies that provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. The City of Laredo shall determine its Essential Government Functions and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions. To the extent feasible, all

Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements.

**SECTION. 10. Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Essential Critical Infrastructure means all public and private facilities and assets, including both physical and cyber systems, and other functions and sectors vital to the security, governance, public health, safety, and economic continuity of the City of Laredo, including warehouses, public works construction, residential and commercial construction provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirement of six (6) feet and use protective gear (for example face masks).

**SECTION 11. Essential Businesses.** For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" means:

**a) Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare Operations includes, but is not limited to hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home- based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities. Healthcare operations do not include elective medical, surgical, and dental. Any medical or surgical procedures intended to treat ongoing moderate/severe acute or chronic pain, any emergent orthopedic procedures, or any other necessary procedures that can be performed safely in a properly equipped physician's office, ambulatory surgery center, or urgent care facility MAY be performed with the goal of relieving overstressed hospital emergency departments from non-COVID urgent healthcare. Physicians SHALL document medical necessity in patient medical record, procedure or surgical note.

**b) Stores that sell Groceries and Certain Other Essential Supplies.** Grocery stores, supermarkets, big-box stores, farmers' markets, food banks, liquor stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences. To the greatest extent possible, essential retail establishments shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- i.** Designate shopping times for at risk;
- ii.** Limit the amount of people in a store at once so that social distancing is possible;
- iii.** Implement an organized system where people are spaced ideally 6 feet apart;
- iv.** Implement purchase limits on high-demand items (toilet paper, soap, hand sanitizer);
- v.** Offer pick up or deliveries of grocery items;
- vi.** Limit entering residences upon deliveries to the greatest extent possible.

- vii.** Convenience Stores may remain open, provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including employees and customers, and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- c) Food Cultivation.** Food cultivation, including farming, ranching, livestock, and fishing;
- d) Social Services and Charitable Organizations.** Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- e) News Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other news media services
- f) Gas Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation.** Gas stations, automobile dealerships, auto-manufacturing and assembly, auto-supply, auto repair, and other related facilities;
- g) Financial Institutions.** Banks and related financial institutions, consumer lenders, sales and finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies;
- h) Hardware and Supply Stores.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and other material necessary to support Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Functions;
- i) Critical Trades.** Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, pool cleaners, and other service providers only to the extent that services are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, Essential Businesses, Essential Government Services, and Critical Infrastructure, including but not limited to utilities such as electricity, gas, water and wastewater, and other public works. Critical Trades does not include discretionary maintenance or improvements;
- j) Mail and Delivery Services.** Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- k) Educational Institutions.** Educational institutions-including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of temporarily closing facilities including dormitories, facilitating distance learning or performing critical research or essential functions, provided social distancing requirements are maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- l) Religious Institutions.** Religious and worship services may be provided by video and teleconference. Institutions must limit in-person staff or volunteers to 10 people or less in the same room when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines (including the social distancing guideline of six (6) feet);
- m) Restaurants for Consumption Off-Premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out and must adhere to strictest standards of food preparation including covering of the face and mouth to the greatest extent possible.

Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this 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;

**n) Supplies to Work from Home.** Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;

**o) Supplies and Service for Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Government Functions.** Businesses or services that supply other Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Functions with the support or supplies necessary to operate; including but not limited to janitorial services, laundry services, computers, audio and video electronics, hardware, paint, electrical and plumbing material, sanitary equipment, medical equipment, and food and beverages and must comply with the social distancing requirements;

**p) Firearm and ammunition retailers.** These, for purposes of safety and security, may remain open provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including employees and customers, and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

**q) Food Delivery Services.** Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;

**r) Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers (such as Uber and Lyft) that provide transportation services necessary for the performance of essential activities, Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, Essential Government Functions, and Essential Travel;

**s) Home-Based Care and Services.** Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children, including caregivers who may travel to provide care;

**t) Residential Facilities and Shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, children and animals;

**u) Professional Services.** Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, insurances services, and real estate services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities and only to the extent that service can be provided with Minimum Basic Operations as defined in Section 2;

**v) Information Technology Services and Telecommunications Services.** These services and their essential services vendors, including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, web-based services, and critical manufacturing, as well as telecommunications services, internet access and broadband/communications services;

**w) Childcare Facilities.** Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:

- i.** Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
- ii.** Children shall not change from one group to another.
- iii.** If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
- iv.** Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

**x) Moving Supply Services.** Businesses that provide residential and/or commercial moving services and necessary moving supplies;

**y) Hotels and Motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging or delivery or carry-out food services;

**z) Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including visitors and employees/staff and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

**SECTION 12.** If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home for a period of at least seven (7) days after the person has tested negative for coronavirus or left the household or such longer period as determined by the Health Department. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function.

**SECTION 13.** Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.

**SECTION 14.** Additionally, the City of Laredo instructs all employees to remain at home if sick, and to promptly communicate with an appropriate health care professional.

**SECTION 15.** The City of Laredo must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the City website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

**SECTION 16.** All typical routes of ingress and egress (roads and streets, City roads, state and other highways, Interstate highways) throughout the City shall remain open and accessible except as otherwise provided herein.



**SECTION 17.** As hereby ordered, the social distancing requirement of 6 feet shall be followed at all times.

**SECTION 18.** As hereby ordered, a curfew for persons aged 17 and under to be imposed from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**SECTION 18.** Pursuant to Texas Government Section 418.173, 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.

## **EXHIBIT 2**

### **Social Distancing and Travel Recommendations**

- 1. Avoid traveling to other jurisdictions unless essential for work or health.**
- 2. Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings.** Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - a. 60 years old and older.
  - b. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- 3. Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**
  - a. Suspend nonessential employee travel
  - b. Ensure employees practice social distancing and do not work within six (6) feet of one another.
  - c. Urge essential employees to stay home if sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
  - d. Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
  - e. Maximize telecommuting options.
  - f. Persons who need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community must take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.
- 4. Cancel Non-essential events**
  - a. Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
  - b. For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
    - 1) Provide hand washing, hand sanitizers stations and make tissues available.
    - 2) Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
    - 3) Finding ways to implement social distancing.
- 5. Schools Safety First**

- a. Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- b. If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- c. Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- d. Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- e. Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- f. Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for further closures.

**6. Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- a. Increase cleaning of vehicle and high touch surface areas.
- b. Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.
- c. Ensure social distancing practices are implemented to the full extent possible.

**7. Health Care Setting: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable.**

- a. Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan pursuant to CDC/ state guidelines.
- b. Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- c. The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- d. If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, to possibly be served by phone.
- e. Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- f. Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

**8. Everyone: Do your part**

- a. The best way for all City of Laredo residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:
  - 1) Wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds.
  - 2) Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
  - 3) Stay home if you are sick.
  - 4) Avoid touching your face.
- b. Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.

- c. If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidelines.
- d. There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.
- e. You can also prepare for the disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:
  - 1) Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
  - 2) Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
  - 3) Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
  - 4) Make arrangements about how your family will manage school closures.
  - 5) Plan for how you can care for as sick family member without getting sick yourself.
  - 6) Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
  - 7) Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.