

Executive Order

NUMBER WM-02

Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus COVID-19 disease has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and has been declared by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, Texas, pursuant to the authority granted me by Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, issued a Disaster Declaration certifying a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens of Hardin County in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.108(d)(g), hereby issue this Executive Order which encompasses all areas inside the boundaries of Hardin County, including the incorporated municipalities of: Kountze, Lumberton, Rose Hill Acres, Silsbee and Sour Lake, Texas by the authority of each City or Town Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, I, Wayne McDaniel, County Judge of Hardin County, 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 countywide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

- Order No. 1** In accordance with the Guidelines from President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC, every person in Hardin County, Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Order No. 2** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the duration of this executive order.
- Order No. 3** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Order No. 4** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. This does not apply to licensed child-care facilities, including a daycare center, group daycare home or family home. All childcare facilities should continue to follow the guidance from Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) Child Care Licensing Department, the CDC and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
- Order No. 5** Any building which the public has access to, including a daycare facility, is hereby restricted from being occupied by more than 20% of the Maximum Occupancy requirements as set forth by the International Building Code (IBC). Maximum Occupancy signs shall be prominently displayed to show this reduced number in these places. Persons must adhere to social distancing by keeping a minimum of 6 feet separation from each other.
- Order No. 6** A twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place throughout Hardin County for all individuals who are under the age of 18 who are not currently enrolled in school. This curfew does not apply if the individual under the age of 18 is accompanied by school personnel, a parent, or a guardian. Persons under the age of 18 are allowed to travel to and from: Work, school, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, parks, banks, and restaurants with the permission of their parent or legal guardian.

This, executive order does not prohibit anyone from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19.

The more people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

Hardin County citizens are strongly implored to keep up with and adhere to the ever-changing guidelines set forth by the CDC and DSHS with regards to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Go to [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for valuable information on this infectious disease.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter, and this order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding County Judge.

Given under my hand this the
19th Day of March, 2020



Wayne McDaniel
Hardin County Judge