

**KENEDY COUNTY'S STAY AT HOME ORDER
DATED MARCH 31, 2020**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, declared a national emergency and the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster due to a public health emergency Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19.); and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") issued revised guidance regarding social distancing and mass gatherings of 50 or more people; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people's interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Kenedy County Judge Louis E. Turcotte, III issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Due to COVID-19 Emergency; 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 the disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for person misplaced or evacuated, request assistance from the Governor of state resources, and access funds available for disaster relief and reimbursement at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, and March 31, 2020, the Kenedy County Commissioners Court issued the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court COVID-19 Orders that affirmed the activation of the Kenedy County Emergency Management Plan and extended the Declaration of Local Disaster by the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court COVID-19 Orders until further notice which shall be enforced by the fullest extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, said disaster requires emergency measures be taken to mitigate and prevent the spread of and control the-risk of COVID-19, in order to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of Kenedy County, Texas residents; and

WHEREAS, given the ongoing evaluation of circumstances related to the COVID-19 virus, the updated recommendations of the CDC and the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the substantial risks posed by the COVID-19 virus, to Kenedy County, Texas residents and their property, the following extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to protect the public's safety.

NOW THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, KENEDY COUNTY JUDGE ORDERS:

That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted and made a part hereof for all purposes. This Order is in addition to any previous orders issued by the County Judge or County Commissioners Court and hereby incorporates all previous orders by reference, including the Orders dated March 18, 2020, March 23, 2020, and March 31, 2020.

Summary. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private healthcare providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order requires all individuals anywhere in Kenedy County, Texas, to shelter at their place of residence, except for certain Essential Activities and Essential Businesses.

1. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020:

SHELTER AT HOME

- (a) All Individuals currently living within Kenedy County are ordered to shelter at their place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include homes, hunting camps, shared rentals, recreational vehicles, motor homes, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonable as possible maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences or enter or leave the territorial limits of this County only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, all as defined in Section 2.

BUSINESSES

- (b) All business operating within Kenedy County, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 2, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within Kenedy County. For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated in its entirety including maintaining six (6) feet social distancing for both employees and the general public.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GATHERINGS

- (c) All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as other-wise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

- (d) Religious and worship services may be provided by video and teleconference. Institutions must limit in-person staff 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).

2. Definitions:

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

- (a) For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities":
- i. 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 (for example obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home.)
 - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.)
 - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with the social distancing requirement of six (6) feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, fishing, running, boating, wading, or surfing). All beaches within the geographic boundaries of Kenedy County are open for regular hours of operation but with an 8 p.m. curfew although access to such beaches may be monitored and/or limited to assure that no vehicles park within one hundred (100) feet of another vehicle. All county public parks within the geographic boundaries of Kenedy County are closed.
 - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
 - v. To care for a family member(s) or a pet (or pets) in another household.
 - vi. Nothing in this Order affects judicial orders or agreements regarding child-related visitation or custody arrangement.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESS

- (b) For purposes of this Order; "Essential Businesses" means:

Essential Government, Functions

- i. All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public, including any local government entities that are required by law to furnish medical and hospital care for the indigent and needy persons residing in the County. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Government Functions." All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six (6) feet, to the extent possible.

Essential Critical Infrastructure

- ii. Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of any of the sixteen (16) critical infrastructure sectors, including suppliers and distributors, as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (including, but not limited to the following sectors: chemical, commercial facilities, communications, critical manufacturing,

dams, industrial base, emergency services, energy, financial services, food & agriculture, ranches, windfarms, government facilities, healthcare & public health, information technology, nuclear reactors, materials & waste, transportation systems, water & wastewater systems) Kenedy County, Texas' industries and related support businesses, NAS Kingsville, public works construction, residential and commercial construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil and gas industry, crude oil storage and transport facilities, refining processes, oil and gas/industry disposal facilities, roads and highways, public transportation, automobile repair, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, bail bond sureties, defense and national security-related operations, warehouses, essential manufacturing operations, provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirement of six (6) feet, to the extent possible. Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached. Essential Businesses also include businesses that supply Essential Businesses with the services, support, storage, repairs, equipment or supplies necessary or useful to operate or function effectively.

Education and Research

- iii. Educators, teachers, or other personnel supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other functions in support of Essential Activities or Essential Businesses.

Transportation Providers

- iv. Any private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order.

Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations

- v. Business that provide food, shelter and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable populations.

Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses

- vi. Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, cemeteries, recreational vehicles, motor homes, and public storage facilities. Plumbers, electricians, roofers, exterminators, air conditioner repair, appliance repair, equipment repair, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as insurance, title, real estate, legal or accounting services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated, prohibited, or necessary activities, including the entry of contracts for Essential Businesses or support thereof. Automobile, large truck, and RVs in

support of transportation. Businesses that supply other essential with support or supplies needed to operate.

News Media

- vii. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

Childcare and Adult Care Services

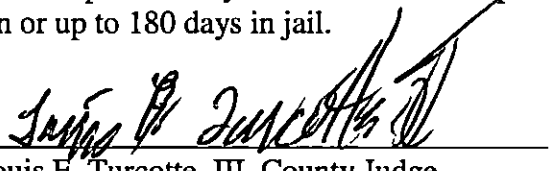
- viii. License childcare or adult care facilities, organizations, or individuals providing services.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

3. Any industry or business that is not an Essential Business may apply for an exemption from the requirement imposed by this Order by contacting the Kenedy County Judge. To be eligible for an exemption, the industry or business must provide evidence that continuing the operations of their industry or business are essential to promote the general welfare of the Kenedy County residents and State of Texas during the COVID-19 response.
4. Due to the public health emergency, the Office of the Kenedy County Judge hereby advises the Kenedy County Justices of the Peace to suspend eviction hearings and writs of possession for at least the next sixty (60) days to prevent renters from being displaced, except as otherwise authorized by the Texas Supreme Court Order of March 19, 2020.
5. The Office of the Kenedy County Judge hereby advises the Kenedy County Sheriff to suspend all extraditions for at least the next sixty (60) days to further deter the spread of the virus.
6. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home for a period of at least 14 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.
7. Additionally, the Office of the Kenedy County Judge and the Health Authority instructs all employees to remain at home if sick, and to promptly communicate with an appropriate health care professional.
8. This Order shall be effective as of 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 30 2020.
9. The County of Kenedy must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Kenedy County 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.
10. All typical routes of ingress and egress (roads and streets, county roads, state and other highways, Interstate highways) throughout Kenedy County (including all of Kenedy County's unincorporated areas) shall remain open and accessible, except to the extent specifically limited by Section 2.a.iii of this Order to Stay at Home.

ENFORCEMENT OF STAY AT HOME ORDER

11. A violation of this Order to Stay At Home is a violation of the emergency management plans of Kenedy County. A violation by any person of any provision of this Order to Stay At Home is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per violation and separate day of violation, and additional amount as authorized by law. A second offense after warning in which intent to commit all elements of an act prohibited herein is proven may result in a fine of up to \$1,000 per violation or separate day of violation or up to 180 days in jail.



Louis E. Turcotte, III, County Judge
Kenedy County, Texas

ATTEST TO:



Veronica Vela, County Clerk
Kenedy County, Texas

EXHIBIT "A"

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:
 - 60 years old and older.
 - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
 - For vulnerable populations, do not go to gatherings unless it is essential. Stay home.
 - Avoid people who are sick.
- 3) **Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**
 - Suspend nonessential employee travel.
 - Ensure employees practice social distancing and do not work within six (6) feet of one another.
 - Urge essential employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
 - Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
 - Maximize telecommuting options.
 - 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**
 - Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
 - For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
 - Provide hand washing, hand sanitizers stations and make tissues available.
 - Frequently clean high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
 - Finding ways to implement social distancing.
- 5) **Schools Safety First**
 - Do not have your child attend school if sick.
 - If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
 - Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
 - Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
 - Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
 - Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.

- Schools should develop a plan for countywide school closures, and families should prepare for further closures.
- 6) **Transit: Cleaning and Protection**
- Increase cleaning of vehicle and high touch surface areas.
 - Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.
 - Ensure social distancing practices are implemented to the full extent possible.
- 7) **Health Care Setting: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable.**
- Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
 - Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
 - 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.
 - If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
 - Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
 - Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.
- 8) **Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Kenedy County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, such as an elbow bump or wave.
- 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.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a childcare plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage school closures.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.

- 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.