



JEFF R. BRANICK
County Judge

SIXTH AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER

I, Jeff R. Branick, duly elected Judge of Jefferson County, based on most recent information received from the Emergency Management Offices personnel and Public Health Authorities issue this **ORDER REGARDING THE OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES THROUGHOUT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES:**

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 13, 2020, I, Jeff R. Branick, County Judge of Jefferson 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 20, 2020, I, Jeff R. Branick, County Judge of Jefferson County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418 108(d)(g), I hereby issue this

Sixth Amended Executive Order which encompasses all areas inside the boundaries of Jefferson County, including the incorporated municipalities of: Beaumont, Port Arthur, Groves, Port Neches, Nederland, Nome, China, and Bevil Oaks, Texas by the authority of each City or Town Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, I, Jeff R. Branick, County Judge of Jefferson 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 at the time signed below 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:

The Jefferson County Courthouse will remain open with flexible staffing, however access to the Courthouse by the public will be significantly limited. Most services can be accessed by the public electronically or by mail. Therefore, in order to gain access to the Courthouse, it must be because of exigent circumstances and you must call the department head or elected official, whose department you wish to visit, and, if granted entry, you must be escorted from the security screening area by someone from that department. **THIS APPLIES TO ALL COUNTY OFFICES** Persons who are granted entry must agree to undergo a simple health screening protocol upon entering and, if the health screening indicates that they may pose a health threat, they may be denied entry.

- 1) Any event sponsored or permitted by Jefferson County shall cease.
- 2) Events greater than 10 persons shall cease at all public facilities across Jefferson County.
- 3) Regarding privately owned facilities: There shall be no gathering of more than 10 persons
- 4) The following businesses are ordered closed. Bars, nightclubs, social clubs, barber shops, beauty shops, nail salons, massage parlors, gymnasiums, fitness clubs, game rooms and businesses operating 8-liners and tattoo parlors.
Restaurants shall close for dine-in services but may use delivery and take out options.
- 5) Grocery stores and convenience stores are encouraged to remain open but citizens are urged to use the delivery or curbside services of local super markets.
- 6) Nursing homes and senior living centers shall limit visitation of the public within their facilities.
- 7) It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place immediately throughout Jefferson County for all individuals under the age of 18, who
 - a) are not in school,
 - b) are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent or guardian, or
 - c) are not going directly to their place of employment or going directly home from that place of employment

This Order does not apply to special needs students during the times local school districts are required by federal law to provide those students services.

WHEREAS, this state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

It is therefore Ordered that the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon execution of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or this Order may be amended:

PRICE CONTROLS

A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services before March 12, 2020.

- a) groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice,
- b) construction and building materials and supplies and earthmoving equipment and machinery;
- c) electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and accessories,
- d) charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns,
- e) hand tools(manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental;
- f) automotive parts, supplies and accessories;
- g) plumbing and electrical tools and supplies;
- h) apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental;
- i) gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants,
- j) restaurant, cafeteria and boarding house meals,
- k) services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies;
- l) medicine, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies;
- m) blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed liners, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsheets, bedsteads, towels and toilet paper; and
- n) furniture and clothing.

PENALTIES

These price control regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the County Clerk.

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than Five hundred (\$500 00) dollars.

By this same authority, I hereby exempt the following classes of individuals from this Emergency Order, PROVIDED that employers are providing appropriate screenings of

their employees for COVID-19, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and sending those home those who display with such symptoms:

1 Those employees of oil terminals, pipelines and oil supply facilities and servicing contractors that are essential for and who are actively involved in the operations of the facilities, transportation and receiving of oil and chemical supplies, refining and operations petrochemical facilities, telecommunications services, in Jefferson County and such other employees who are deemed essential to the operation of such facilities by their employer.

2. Those employees of hospitals, trauma centers, nursing homes, convalescent facilities or other healthcare providers who are essential for and who are actively involved in providing medical treatment and/or housing for persons who are ill or infirm and who are not evacuated.

3. Those employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments, Political Subdivisions, and Special Purpose Districts who are deemed essential by their employer for law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, including jury operations.

4. Banks and credit unions but they are encouraged to limit services as much as practicable to drive up services.

This order does **NOT** extend to law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, court operations, including jury operations, and to all school districts of Jefferson County.

The Mayor of each City within Jefferson County shall determine the scope of operations of municipal employees.

All Jefferson County Employees must report for work as required by their supervisors. All work related travel of County employees shall cease.

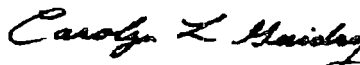
This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until amended or terminated.

Signed at 2:15 p.m. March 22, 2020.



Jeff R. Branick, County Judge

FILED AND RECORDED
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS



Carolyn L. Guidry, County Clerk
Jefferson County, Texas

March 22, 2020 04 37 35 PM

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