



**Bell County Disaster Declaration**

**Directive #6**

**Stay Home Stay Safe**

**DATE AMENDED ORDER & DIRECTIVE ISSUED: April 20, 2020**

FILED FOR RECORD  
2020 APR 20 A 8:14  
SHELLEY COSTON  
CO. CLK. BELL CO. TX

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Bell County Judge David Blackburn issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency and Directive #1 on March 18, 2020, due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Judge Blackburn issued Directive #2 in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Judge Blackburn issued Directive #3 in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus ;and

WHEREAS, on March 23 2020, Judge Blackburn issued Directive #4 in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus ;and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, President Trump announced the extension of federal restrictive social distancing guidelines to extend through April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-14, which directed every person in Texas, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household; and

WHEREAS, GA-14 also adopted the US Department of Homeland Security Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0 as providing the listing of essential infrastructure, workers and industry sectors and as such may be amended or modified by the Texas Division of Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, GA-14 directed that any conflicting order issued by local declarations, to the extent such local declaration conflicts with GA-14 be prohibited; and

WHEREAS GA-14 directed that any restriction on essential services, as defined in GA-14 or as may be defined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, be prohibited; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, Judge Blackburn issued Directive #5 in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued a series of Executive Orders on Friday, April 17, 2020, among them Executive Order #16; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order #16 requires every person in Texas to minimize their movements, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, to minimize social gatherings, and to minimize in person contact with people who are not in the same household; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order #16 identifies 'essential services' and provides for 're-opened services', under certain terms and conditions;

WHEREAS, the Governor has indicated additional Executive Orders are forthcoming which will further define the terms and conditions for movement, gathering, and activities associated with persons and essential services and 're-opened services'; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Governor's actions, the need for local Directives and Orders has been superseded and is no longer warranted or necessary.

THEREFORE, the April 3, 2020, Directive #5, of County Judge David Blackburn is hereby rescinded.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**



**DAVID BLACKBURN  
COUNTY JUDGE**

Filed this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020 in the Office of the County Clerk.

Accepted : Shelley Coston  
Shelley Coston, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD  
2020 APR 20 A 9:14  
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## Bell County Social Distancing Recommendations

FILED FOR RECORD  
2020 APR 20 A 9:14  
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### 1) High Risk Populations

- High Risk populations, per the CDC, are:
  - People 65 years old and older, and
  - People with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and compromised immune systems.
- For High Risk populations:
  - Stay home
  - Outdoor exercise should be a solitary activity
  - Prescreen all essential visitors to your home
  - Don't visit homes or places where gatherings are occurring
  - Ask all visitors to your home to wear a mask
  - Follow social distancing guidelines
  - Don't use public transit except in an emergency
  - Don't be around people who are sick

### 2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Review and determine who are essential and non-essential workers and allow non-essential workers to stay home.
- Ensure employees practice social distancing and do not work within six feet of one another, to the extent such is possible.
- Urge all 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 remote working and telecommuting options.
- Persons who need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefits to the community should take steps in their workplace to minimize risk, such as the wearing of cloth face masks when feasible.

### 3) 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.
- School should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for further closures.

**4) Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- Increase cleaning of vehicles 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.

**5) Health Care Settings: 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 ... you may be able to be served by phone and avoid a trip
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

**6) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Bell County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-10:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 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, like 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 guidance.
- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission

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 child care 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 in 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.