



**Bell County Disaster Declaration**

**Directive #5**

**Stay Home Stay Safe**

**DATE AMENDED ORDER & DIRECTIVE ISSUED: April 3, 2020**

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, there continues to be on-going evaluation of the circumstances related to the virus and the updated recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services and Bell County Public Health District warrant that the March 27, 2020 Order of County Judge David Blackburn be modified;

THEREFORE, the March 27, 2020, Directive #4, of County Judge David Blackburn is hereby rescinded and the following Directive #5 is hereby ORDERED:

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, BELL COUNTY JUDGE DAVID BLACKBURN HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. Office of the Governor Executive Orders GA-09, GA-11, GA-12, GA-13 and GA-14 are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this Order.
2. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 a.m. on April 30, 2020:
  - (a) All individuals currently living within Bell County are hereby ordered to stay in their residence, save and except to provide or obtain essential services.
  - (b) 'Essential services' shall consist of the definition given to it by Executive Order GA-14, Governor, State of Texas, issued March 31, 2020 and as may hereafter be amended by the Governor's Office and/or the Texas Division of Emergency Management.
  - (c) For purposes of this Order and the shelter in place provision, the following definitions and guidelines apply:
    - a. "Residence" includes structures that are single family, multi-family, hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities.
    - b. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.
    - c. All persons may leave their residences for providing or obtaining essential services and engaging in essential daily activities.
  - (d) All non-essential services and activities are required to cease at facilities and locations located within the County, save and except as provided below:
    - a. All businesses may continue, and are encouraged to continue, operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e. working from home).
  - (e) In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, all public or private gatherings of 10 or more people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, save and except religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship should follow the guidance set forth by the Joint Guidance Document from the Governor and Attorney General's Office, released on April 1, 2020.
  - (f) All individuals and businesses should comply, to the extent possible, with social distancing requirements of six feet and other social distancing guidelines that may be recommended in order to best protect self and others.
  - (g) All delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies in Bell County is hereby suspended until May 31, 2020.
  - (h) If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID19, the household is ordered to isolate at home and follow the directives from their health care provider. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function, provided that workers included in Essential Healthcare Operations may continue to work in accordance with CDC guidance. All persons are encouraged to take advantage of telehealth services offered by healthcare providers, including expanded telehealth services now available to Medicare patients.

- (i) For individuals who are 65 and older and individuals with compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions, the following recommendations are made and strongly urged:
- a. Remain indoors
  - b. Outdoor exercise activities should be solitary
  - c. Prescreen all essential visitors
  - d. Do not visit homes or places with more than one person
  - e. Ask all visitors to wear masks
  - f. Follow social distancing guidelines
  - g. Do not use public transit except in an emergency
3. This Order shall be effective until 11:59 a.m. on April 30, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
  4. Failure to comply with this Directive and the orders contained herein is an offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per day or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days
  5. Bell County shall provide copies of this Order by posting on the Bell County website and by filing with the Bell County Clerk. 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.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**



**DAVID BLACKBURN  
COUNTY JUDGE**

Filed this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020 in the Office of the County Clerk.

Accepted :

  
Shelley Coston, County Clerk



## Bell County Social Distancing Recommendations

### 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.
- 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 benefits to the community must take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

### 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.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick, but masks may be worn if you are sick to help prevent you from further spreading your illness

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.