



**County Judge Lina Hidalgo**  
D I R E C T O R

## **ORDER BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF HARRIS COUNTY**

**Whereas**, On March 11, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency was issued to allow Harris County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Harris County residents; and

**Whereas**, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

**Whereas**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends an "All of Community" approach focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing to reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts; and

**Whereas**, upon Declaration of a Local Disaster, a County Judge is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in accordance with Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code; and

**Whereas**, due to the substantial risks to the public, the following extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

**SECTION 1.** 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 by the County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes.

**SECTION 2.** Effective as of 8:00 a.m. on March 19, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 24, 2020, unless terminated or modified by an earlier order, the County Judge of the County of Harris, Texas, deems it in the public interest to order that:

- a. Any person entering a building owned, occupied, or operated by Harris County may be screened for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 including but not limited to:
  - i. A fever screen for a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit using a touchless thermometer;
  - ii. A health screen for symptoms consistent with COVID-19;
  - iii. A travel questionnaire; and/or
  - iv. A screen for exposure to anyone with the above conditions.
- b. Any person who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be denied entrance into the building.
- c. Any person who refuses to submit to screening may be denied entrance into the building.

**SECTION 3:** Pursuant to Section V(A)(5)(a) and Appendix 9 to Annex U of the Harris County Basic Plan adopted by Harris County Commissioners Court on October 29, 2019, and in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code § 418.173, any law enforcement agency based in Harris County is hereby authorized to enforce this order, and the failure to comply with this Order is an offense and is punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

**SECTION 4:** Harris County will post this Order on its website. 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 this Order.

**SECTION 5:** This Order applies to any person entering a building owned, occupied, or operated by Harris County.

**ORDERED** This, the 19th day of March, 2020, in the County of Harris, Texas.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**



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**LINA HIDALGO**  
**HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE**