



DENTON COUNTY

Executive Order AE-20-03-22
March 22, 2020

DISASTER DECLARATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE DENTON COUNTY JUDGE Andy Eads

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, Denton County is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Denton County Department of Emergency Services and the Denton County Department of Public Health has established emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and emergency response plans for this type of health emergency. These measures include isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated; and

WHEREAS, this International Health Emergency has created a serious health emergency requiring the issuance of a Disaster Declaration and the implementation of the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan, the Denton County Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan, and associated Emergency Policies; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge issued the first Executive Order on March 13, 2020, the County Commissioners issued a renewal as a Disaster Declaration on March 17, 2020 in Court Order 20-0201, and updated by the County Judge through an Executive Order on March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418; and

WHEREAS, Denton County has a rapid increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19; and

NOW, THEREFORE, this Executive Order shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020 and

continue for not more than seven days unless authorized by the Denton County Commissioners or amended/rescinded by the County Judge:

1. A Declaration of local state of disaster activates the Denton County Emergency Operations Plan.
2. This Declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to no more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. For purposes herein, a gathering is any indoor or outdoor event that brings together or is likely to bring together more than 10 people at the same time in a single space where people are present and within six feet of one another, without regard to the purpose of the gathering.

This Declaration does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as different floors of a multi-level office, residential building, or hotel, so long as not more than 10 people are present in any single space at the same time. This declaration also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where more than 10 people may be present at different times during the day, so long as more than 10 people are not present in the space at the same time. This declaration does not make a distinction between types of gatherings, i.e. social, community, or recreational.

3. This Declaration orders that restaurants and beverage bars with or without drive-in or drive-through services; drive-in restaurants; drive-through restaurants; or microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-in or drive-through services, if permitted by law.
4. This Declaration orders that the public cannot occupy nor may patrons be permitted to occupy the following: bars, lounges, taverns, commercial amusement establishments, bingo halls, theaters, movie theaters, gymnastic studios, martial arts studios, gyms, private clubs, hair and nail salons and barber shops, estheticians and related personal care businesses, spas, massage parlors, tattoo and piercing parlors, tanning salons, residential meeting spaces, event centers, hotel meeting spaces and ballrooms, outdoor plazas and markets, malls and retail stores that do not sell essential household goods.
5. This Declaration allows the following entities to continue doing business as long as they enforce social separation: grocery stores, stores selling essential household goods, convenience and package stores, pharmacies and drug stores, day care facilities, medical facilities, non-profit service providers, homeless and emergency shelters, office buildings, essential government buildings, airports and transit facilities, transportation systems, residential buildings and hotels, and manufacturing and distribution facilities.

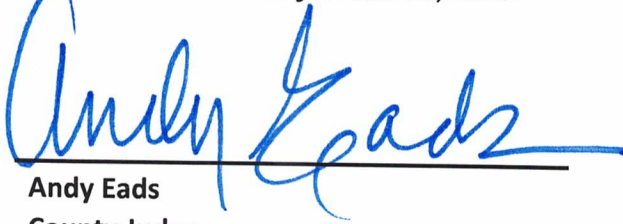
In all such locations, there must always be sufficient space for all people to be six feet apart to control infection. Where possible, a tracking list of individuals present, and their contact information shall be maintained.

6. Retail suppliers shall use commonsense rationing of household products and groceries that are in limited supply.
7. Notwithstanding the above restriction, this Declaration is not intended to apply to any business operations delivering essential services. Essential Services means services, by whomsoever rendered, and whether rendered to the government or to any other person, the interruption of which would endanger life, health or personal safety of the whole or part of the population. Essential services as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Memorandum dated March 19, 2020 may continue to their operation appropriately modified to account for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) workforce and consumer protection guidance.
8. If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function

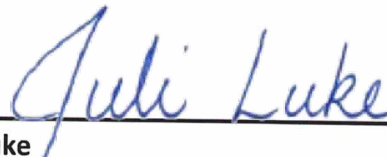
- until cleared by a medical professional.
9. This Declaration restricts worship services for in-person services, provided that staff can work on site to produce audio/video services for transmission to the public.
 10. This Declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.
 11. This Declaration incorporates the attached table, Disaster Restrictions, as if set forth verbatim herein.
 12. This Declaration shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.

The purpose if this order is for emergency protective measures, mitigation procedures and response plans to this public health emergency;

Adopted the 22nd day of March, 2020.



**Andy Eads
County Judge**



**Juli Luke
County Clerk**

March 22, 2020

Date Filed and Attested: Denton County

DISASTER RESTRICTIONS

LOCATIONS	RESTRICTIONS
All gatherings without regard to purpose.	<p>No more than 10 people. Practice social distancing - enough space for all people to be six (6) feet apart at all times. Keep a tracking list of individuals and their contact information.</p>
<p>Bars, Lounges, Taverns Commercial Amusement Establishments Bingo Halls Gyms, Gymnastic Studios, Martial Arts Studios Private Clubs Hair and/or Nail Salons and Barber Shops Estheticians and related personal care businesses Spas and Massage Parlors Tattoo and Piercing Parlors Tanning Salons Residential Meeting Spaces Event Centers Hotel Meeting Spaces and Ballrooms Outdoor Plazas and Markets Malls Retail stores that do not sell essential household goods.</p>	<p>No public or patron occupancy permitted.</p>
Food and Beverage Establishments	<p>In-House Dining - Closed Drive-In, Drive-Through, Take-Out, and delivery is permitted. Practice social distancing - enough space for all people to be six (6) feet apart at all times.</p>
Worship Services	<p>Closed for in-person services Production and audio/video services - Permitted</p>
<p>Grocery Stores Essential Household Goods Stores Convenience and Package Stores Pharmacies and Drug Stores Day Care Facilities Medical Facilities Non-Profit Service Providers Homeless and Emergency Shelters Office Buildings Essential Government Buildings Airports and Transit Facilities Transportation Systems Residential Buildings and Hotels Manufacturing and Distribution Facilities</p>	<p>Practice Social Distancing Sufficient space for all people to be six (6) feet apart at all times. Keep a tracking list of individuals and their contact information, wherever possible.</p>

Public Health Social Distancing Recommendations

1) 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, don't go to gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within six feet of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge 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.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

3) Cancel Non-essential Events

- Cancel non-essential events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
 - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available.
 - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
 - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible.

4) 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.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

5) 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.

6) 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, 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.

7) Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all Denton 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 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.

8) Daycare Guidelines:

Effective immediately, all current child care providers will implement the following guidance, consistent with new requirements in accordance with state law, federal guidance, and Gov. Greg Abbott's recent disaster declaration:

- Prohibit any person except the following from accessing an operation: operation staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, HHSC Child Care Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation; and parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the operation.
- Require pickup and drop-off of children outside of the operation, unless its determined that there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter an operation.
- Before allowing entry into the operation, screen all individuals listed above, including taking the temperature of each person upon arrival at the operation each day, and deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:
 1. A temperature of 98.6°F or above;
 2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever;
 3. In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness; or

4. In the previous 14 days has travelled internationally to countries with widespread, sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/travelers/index.html>.
- Ensure that each child is provided individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.

You can also prepare for the possible 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 a school closure.
- 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.