



**JOHN H. GOTHIA**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**  
**ORANGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**123 SOUTH 6TH STREET**  
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March 27, 2020

For Immediate  
Release POC:  
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## **THIRD AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER**

I, John H. Gothia, duly elected Judge of Orange 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 ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES:**

The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private healthcare providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order requires all individuals anywhere in Orange County, to stay at home- except for certain Essential Activities and work to provide Essential Business and Essential Government services or perform essential infrastructure construction, including housing. This Order takes effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2020 and will continue through 11:59 p.m. on April 10, 2020, subject to the limited exceptions and under the terms and conditions more particularly set forth below.

Under the authority granted to me by Chapter 418, Texas Government Code, a disaster declaration has been issued effective on March 13, 2020. Additionally, pursuant to Section 418.108(d) and (g), Texas Government Code, I hereby issue the following orders in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control:

- 1) Any gathering sponsored or permitted by Orange County shall cease.
- 2) Gatherings of greater than 10 persons shall cease at all public facilities across Orange County.
- 3) Regarding **PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTIES**: There shall be no gathering of more than 10 persons.
- 4) Bars and nightclubs shall be closed for any business other than take out or delivery. Restaurants shall close for dine-in services but may use delivery and take out options.
- 5) All gyms, fitness clubs, tattoo shops, game rooms, business operating 8-liners and massage therapy facilities and tanning salons shall close effective with this date and remain closed until further notice.
- 6) All hair salons, beauty salons, spas and barber shops shall close according to their normal posted business hours this date and remain closed until further notice. All nail salons shall close according to their normal posted business hours this date and remain closed until further notice.
- 7) All door-to-door sales shall cease effective immediately. Residents who encounter a salesman at their door should simply not answer the door.
- 8) In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. This does not apply to licensed child-care facilities, including a daycare center, group daycare home or family home. All childcare facilities shall adhere to the 10 person maximum in a group setting.
- 9) Grocery stores, convenience stores and any supply type store are encouraged to remain open but, citizens are urged to use the delivery or curbside services where available or use Social Distancing.
- 10) Nursing homes and senior living centers shall limit visitation of the public within their facilities. This does not include medical therapeutic support and medical personnel. This also does not include food & supply delivery.
- 11) It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hour curfew on citizens 17 years of age and under shall be in place immediately throughout Orange County for all individuals 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.
- 12) No Outdoor burning (debris, waste, leaves, etc.).
- 13) Unless an individual requires assistance due to physical or medical needs, or is a parent of a child for whom there is no alternative care, only one member of a household shall enter the following retail/wholesale establishments at one time. This applies to the following retailers: Grocery Stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, any store within a strip center or mall, liquor stores, gas stations, convenience stores, and farmers' markets.
- 14) All directives in this order are Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 418.173. Peace officers are hereby authorized to enforce the current Order. Anyone who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, or up to 180 days confinement in jail.

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 or offer to 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.

Price increases on the above described goods or services are permitted only if such increases accurately reflect an actual, and documented, increase in the cost of new stock or the cost to transport it, plus the retailers average markup percentage applied during the 10 days immediately prior to the declaration of a state of emergency.

### **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 shall be, upon conviction, subject to a fine of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars.

## EXEMPTIONS

By this same authority, I hereby **exempt** the following classes of individuals from this Emergency Order, PROVIDED that these employers are providing appropriate screenings of their employees for COVID-19, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and sending home those who display such symptoms. This overview is not intended to be a complete list:

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, drainage districts and water supply districts in Orange 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.

## COUNTY/CITY OPERATIONS

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

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

All Orange 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 at 11:59pm Friday, March 27, 2020**, and shall remain in effect until amended or terminated.



## **IN AN EFFORT TO LIMIT EXPOSURE**

**What does the Stay Home, Work Safe Order mean for my Community?**

## **WORK SAFE, PLAY SAFE, STAY SAFE**

Our communities play a vital part in helping us stem the spread of COVID-19. This overview is not intended to be a complete list of business types that are impacted. Please note that this order is intended to be narrowly interpreted. Violations are subject to fines and up to 180 days in jail. Please seek legal counsel if you are unsure if a certain business, service, or function is considered essential. Other than Health Care services, all physical contact between providers and customers should be completely avoided.

### **What is Open?**

- No Travel Is Restricted
- Essential Government Functions
- Essential Businesses (see below)
- Restaurants that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Bars that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Micro-Breweries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Micro-Distilleries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Wineries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Public Parks but not Playground Equipment
- Open Outdoor Recreation Areas, While Always Maintaining Social Distancing of 6 feet
- Laundromats / Washaterias (while observing social distancing)
- Religious and Worship Services by Video, Teleconference, and Drive-In Type Services

### **What is closed, for now? (list is not exhaustive)**

- Playground Equipment
- Gyms / Cross-Fit Facilities / Martial Arts Facilities
- Fitness Centers / Sports Training Facilities
- Public Swimming Pools and Splash Pads
- Sports and Recreation Training Facilities and Studios
- Hair and Nail Salons
- Spas
- Licensed Massage Businesses
- Tattoo Parlors
- Concert Halls
- Live Performance Theaters

- Arenas
- Stadiums
- Movie Theaters
- Game Rooms / Pool Halls
- Bowling Alleys
- Arcades
- Indoor and Outdoor Flea Markets and Swap Meets
- Indoor Malls, Unless the Individual Store has an Outside Entrance
- Bingo Halls
- Tanning Salons
- Buses and any Other Forms of Public Transportation, including Worksite Busing
- Picnics, Barbeques, Sand-Bar/Beach Parties or any Social Gatherings including more than 10 people
- Outdoor Burning of Debris or Waste

**Essential Activities are:**

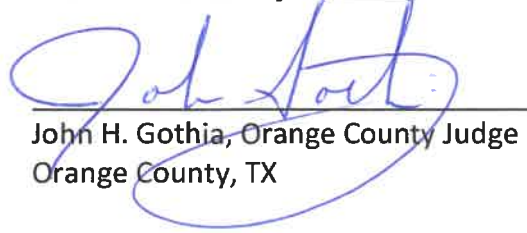
- Performing tasks essential to health and safety, including: obtaining medication or visiting a healthcare professional
- Obtaining supplies or services or delivery of those to others, including: food, pet supplies, household products, work from home supplies
- Engaging in outdoor activity, while keeping social distancing
- Performing work providing essential products and services to an essential business
- Caring for a family member or pet in another household.

**Essential Businesses include:**

- Critical Infrastructure as identified by the US Department of Homeland Security National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Essential Government Functions including law enforcement, and other services for the health, safety and welfare of the public
- Essential Healthcare Operations including hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, mental health providers, blood banks, home and residential based care for seniors, adults and children, veterinary and animal welfare operations, transportation for healthcare patients
- Essential Retail including grocery stores, warehouse stores, gas stations, convenience stores, food producers and service providers
- Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations
- Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses including: trash and recycling collection, mail and shipping services, building maintenance and security, and funeral homes
- News Media
- Childcare and Adult Care Services
- Infrastructure, Development, Operation and Construction Services including public works construction, housing construction, commercial, manufacturing, oil refining, roads and highways, and telecommunications systems
- Transportation Businesses including car dealerships, parts distributors, maintenance and repair facilities, gas stations
- Labor Union Functions
- All Marine Ports
- Airports and related operations

- Professional services including legal, banking and financial institutions, accounting, insurance, and real estate services.
- Other businesses that are not listed but either are or support critical industries or services.

**SIGNED** this 27th day of March, 2020



John H. Gothia, Orange County Judge  
Orange County, TX