

RESOLUTION NO. 2620-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
DAWSON, TEXAS, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

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

**WHEREAS**, 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**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation making certain recommendations mandatory; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dawson, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, said 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 Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

**WHEREAS**, at his March 22, 2020 press conference, the Governor acknowledged that the urban centers may need to enact more stringent measures to address this public health emergency and stated that he would applaud the cities for doing so; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020 Navarro County Judge, H.M. Davenport affirmed the Governor's orders to avoid gatherings of more than 10 persons; avoid dining in a bar, restaurants, food courts; avoid visiting gyms and massage parlors; avoid visiting retirement and long term care facilities and temporarily close school until further notice; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the intent to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, and the desire to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible, this Order is required; and

**WHEREAS**, this Order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 throughout the Central Texas area, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the City places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, making the problem worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in preventable transmission of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID- 19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, local health officials, the local hospitals, are all calling for this action to flatten the curve of the virus transmission, and have warned that not taking action could result in the medical resources being overcome; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Stephen Sanders, Mayor of Dawson have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19,

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DAWSON, TEXAS, DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM: UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108 AND HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 122.006:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Dawson, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

**SECTION 2.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue until terminated by law or by action of the Dawson City Council.

**SECTION 3.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

**SECTION 4.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Dawson, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.

**SECTION 6.** In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

**SECTION 7.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 8.** That this declaration shall take effect midnight (11:59 pm) March 25, 2020 from and after its issuance and shall continue until terminated by law or by action of the City Council of the City of Dawson.

The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein and made findings of fact.

That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Dawson, Texas.

Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of the April 8, 2020, declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Dawson.

Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City's emergency management plan.

All individuals currently living within the City of Dawson, Texas (the "City") are ordered to shelter at their place of residence. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential

Businesses, all as defined in Section 10. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to utilize Social Distancing Requirements in their operation).

All businesses with a facility in the City, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 10, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section 10. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open, however, even Essential Businesses are encouraged to determine essential staff necessary to operate and send non-essential staff home. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 below, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes as expressly permitted in Section 10. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

All travel, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined below in Section 10, is prohibited. People must use public transit only for purposes of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 below, to the greatest extent feasible. This Order allows travel into or out of the City to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions.

#### 10. Definitions and Exemptions.

- a. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities:"
  - i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;
  - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
  - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running or riding a bicycle. Except for members of a residence who are sheltering together, the individuals shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section;

- iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations; and
- v. To care for a family member or pet in another household.

But people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

- b. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any "Healthcare Operations" including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. "Healthcare Operations" also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. "Healthcare Operations" does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.
- c. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "Essential Infrastructure," including, but not limited to, construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.
- d. For purposes of this Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others who need to perform essential services are categorically exempt from this Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Governmental Functions," as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.
- e. For the purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.
- f. For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" means as defined in the most recent guidelines as issued by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and herein:
  - i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
  - ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned

food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), and liquor stores. This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences:

- iii. Food cultivation, including fanning, livestock, and fishing;
- iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
- viii. Hardware and construction supply stores;
- ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
- x. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xi. Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
- xii. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up or take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site. **Note:** Patrons may not wait inside a restaurant for their food orders. If there is a line or gathering of persons (outside of their vehicles) waiting to be served, this places everyone in the line or gathering at a higher risk of transmission of COVID-19. Restaurants are urged to create a system that does not involve such lines or gatherings of people waiting to order or waiting to receive their order. For example, a system where the customers call in their order and stay in or at their vehicles until notified that their order is ready --with only one customer at the transaction point at a time, or other methods that assure that the purposes of this Order and Declaration are served is necessary. Stressing the need for call ahead or internet ordering will also cut down on waiting time and could be used in conjunction with the customer calling in or texting when he or she has arrived to allow for straight to vehicle service. If lines cannot be avoided, it shall be the restaurant management's responsibility to assure that safe Social Distancing is practiced. This also applies to food trucks;
- xiii. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;

- xiv. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xv. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xvi. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xvii. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xviii. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xix. Professional services: legal, accounting, insurance, real estate services (including appraisal, survey, and title services);
- xx. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
  - a. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
  - b. Children shall not change from one group to another;
  - c. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate area and shall not mix with each other; and
  - d. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children;
- xxi. Utilities, telecommunications, trash collection and disposal, law enforcement, EMS/ambulance, corrections, dispatch, animal shelters, governmental employees who have not been specifically deemed non-essential and sent home by the government entity;
- xxii. Janitorial and maintenance services, funeral industry, defense industry, space and technology industry, technology support, and scientific research; and
- xxiii. Religious services provided in residences, Healthcare Operations, at funerals, or provided online while being broadcast from a religious facility. It is strongly recommended to minimize gatherings to 10 or fewer.
- g. For the purposes of this Order, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:
  - i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; and
  - ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

- h. For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Travel" includes travel for any of the following purposes:
- i. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations;
  - ii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons;
  - iii. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services;
  - iv. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction;
  - v. Travel required by law enforcement or court Order; or
  - vi. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the City. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the City remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section.

i for purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, and similar facilities.

j. For purposes of this Order, "Social Distancing Requirements 11 includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

11. Non-essential businesses shall shut down except for maintaining Minimum Basic Operations as defined herein. Essential Businesses exempted from shut-down are encouraged to determine staff who are essential to operations, and to send non-essential staff home

12. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to obtain or perform vital services, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 above.

13. Any manufacturer who retools so that a substantial part of their business is for the purpose of manufacturing and producing ventilators, medical PPE and hand sanitizer may apply for an "essential business" exemption under this Order.

14. Grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, hospitals, and medical facilities are experiencing high levels of demand for a large number of products, requiring more deliveries from manufacturers and distribution centers to serve their customers. A number of Texas cities and local associations have implemented restrictions on delivery hours to stores to mitigate truck noise and traffic. Due to the need to deliver products as quickly and efficiently



# Shelter In Place

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What can I do?

---

Perform tasks essential to your health and safety, or to the health and safety of your family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).

Obtain necessary services or supplies for yourself and your family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences).

Go to work at an Essential Business (as defined in the Order) or work from home at a non-essential business.

Care for a family member or pet in another household.

Engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, running, fishing or golfing).

Move to another residence either in or outside of Dawson.

### Childcare

---

Only for Employees of Essential Businesses who are exempted from the Order.

Must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer each day.

No interchanging of groups of children.

More than one group is at a facility, then each group must be in a separate room (no mixing of groups).

Each provider must stay with only one group and not change.

## What Is Still Open

---

**Government Services:** Police stations, Fire Stations, Hospitals/Clinics and Healthcare Operations; Courts; Jails; Garbage and Sanitation; Transportation including CTS; and Utilities (water, power and gas). Training organizations that support these functions.

**Healthcare Facilities:** Hospitals; Clinics; Dentist; Chiropractor Offices; Optometry Offices; Pharmacies; Healthcare Suppliers; Mental Health Providers; Substance Abuse Service Providers; Blood Banks; and any other Healthcare Facility.

**Food:** Grocery Stores; Farmer's Markets; Food Banks; Convenience Stores; Gas Stations; and Take-Out, Drive-Through, and Delivery Restaurants.

**Schools:** Public and Private Educational Institutions only for the purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions.

**Maintenance Services:** Hardware Stores; Plumbers; Electricians; Cleaning Services; and others who provide services necessary for maintaining the Safety, Sanitation, and Essential Operation of Residences and Essential Businesses.

**Animal Services:** Veterinary Care; Pet Food and Supply Stores; Grooming if necessary for the health of the animal; pet daycare, but only for employees of essential businesses.

**Financial Institutions:** Depository Lenders, such as Banks and Credit Unions can operate. Payroll services can also continue to operate. Title Loan and Payday Loan Services are discouraged but allowed.

**Other Essential Facilities:** Laundromats/Laundry Services; Gas Stations; Hotels, Motels; Shared Rentals, and other similar facilities.

Cemeteries and Funeral Services.

## Can I Travel Outside the City / County?

---

Moving is allowed but discouraged.

Travel between jurisdictions is allowed to attend work at essential businesses or to meet the healthcare or other essential services criteria.

Other counties or cities may have shelter-in-place provisions that should be considered

# How Do I Prove that I am Allowed to be Outside?

---

At this time there is not requirement of proof that you are allowed to be outside your residence because the order presumes that citizens will adhere to their civic duty and follow the order for the greater good of the community.

## Examples of Businesses / Services

---

Essential Manufacturing includes Chemical, Defense, Utilities, Communications, Food, Construction Materials, Environmental, Transportation and businesses that support these essential manufacturers.

Hotels, Motels, Apartment Complexes are not affected.

### **Retail Examples that are not affected**

Appliances, Food Services (take-out or delivery), Food Sales (grocery stores and convenience stores, farmers markets, water kiosks etc), Chemical suppliers, Sanitation and disinfectant supplies, Medical and Home Health supplies, Construction materials (hardware, lumber), Packing supplies and mail services, Automotive Sales, Automotive Parts sales, Bigbox retailers (Social Distancing measures should be in place),

### **Retail Examples that ARE affected**

Clothing, Furniture Sales, Jewelry, Florist, Beauty Supplies, Pawn shops, Tobacco and Vaping Rooms / Shops,

### **Service Providers that are not affected**

Insurance, Accounting Services, Utilities, Medical, Communications, Locksmiths, Cleaning services, lawncare, pool service and residential home service needs. Laundromats, Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Services, Automotive maintenance and repair, Lawyers, Real Estate (on a limited basis such as pending sales), Self-Storage facilities (on a limited basis for people moving and emergency response use), Property Management for upkeep and maintenance), Temporary job placement agencies (if providing staff for essential services), Boat Repair and Maintenance.

**It is imperative to utilize common sense, social distancing and to limit exposure as much as possible. For businesses not affected try to conduct business by appointments to limit gathering of clients or personnel.**

**Service Providers that ARE affected**

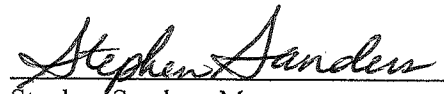
Barbers, Hair Salons, Nail Salons, Event Centers, Theater Venues, Movie Theaters, Car Wash (both automatic and manual- unless utilized for vehicle cleanliness regulations/mandates), Private Investigators.

---

as possible during this critical timeframe, this Order hereby suspends 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 City of Dawson, for the next 60 days.

15. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function.
16. Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.

**PASSED** and **APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Dawson, Texas this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of **March**, 2020.

  
Stephen Sanders, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Ronda Franks, City Secretary

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

---

