

NO. _____ TIME 5:15pm

Executive Order

MAR 23 2020

DONECE GREGORY, COUNTY CLERK
TYLER COUNTY, TEXAS

By *Danette Spivey*

NUMBER JB-01

Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus COVID-19 disease has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and has been declared by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to the authority granted me by Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, issued a Disaster Declaration certifying a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens of Tyler County in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission and that the 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, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 persons, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 418.108(d) and 418.108(g), hereby issue this Executive Order which encompasses all areas inside the boundaries of Tyler County, including the incorporated municipalities of Woodville, Colmesneil, Chester and Ivanhoe, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a countywide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, subject to extension, modification or cancellation thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

The Tyler County Courthouse and all county offices shall be closed to the public until further notice. However, most services can be accessed by the public via telephone, electronically or through the mail. Please contact offices via telephone as needed.

- Order No. 1** In accordance with the Guidelines from President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC, every person in Tyler County, Texas shall limit gatherings to groups of no more than 10 persons. This Order shall include gatherings in public facilities (see exceptions below) and private residences throughout the county. Citizens shall practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.
- Order No. 2** Any event sponsored or permitted by Tyler County shall cease.
- Order No. 3** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, all restaurant dining rooms, bars, social clubs, and nightclubs are closed; however, the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the duration of this Executive Order. Owners and managers shall insure that all cooks and food handlers are screened (per CDC guidelines) for illness prior to preparing food for sale.
- Order No. 4** All gyms, fitness clubs, martial arts and dance studios, tattoo shops, game rooms, reflexology services, and massage therapy facilities shall close effective immediately.
- Order No. 5** All hair salons, beauty salons, barber shops, day spas, and facial salons 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.
- Order No. 6** All door-to-door sales shall cease immediately. Residents who encounter a salesperson at their door should simply not answer the door.
- Order No. 7** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Order No. 8** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. School districts will suspend on-site academic instruction for the period of this Order, and will implement home-based flexible education programs as determined by each District. This Order will not prohibit the preparation and distribution of meals and instructional material packets, as appropriate, within County boundaries, nor prohibit the essential administrative and maintenance operations of the District.

While there may be more than 10 persons within the larger school building, school districts shall comply with the Order that no more than 10 persons gather within any self-contained space, and all persons will comply with social distancing guidelines. Citizens should contact their local school district for more information.

Order No. 9 Any building which the public has access to is hereby restricted from being occupied by more than 20% of the Maximum Occupancy requirements as set forth by the International Building Code (IBC). Maximum Occupancy signs shall be displayed to show this reduced number in these places. Persons must adhere to social distancing guidelines by keeping a minimum of 6 feet separation from each other.

Grocery stores and convenience stores are encouraged to remain open but citizens are urged to use delivery or curbside services to the greatest extent possible.

Order No. 10 A twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place throughout Tyler County for all individuals who are under the age of 18. This curfew does not apply if the individual under the age of 18 is accompanied by school personnel, a parent, or a guardian, or is travelling to and from their place of employment

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 any of the following goods or services for more than a reasonable price that is directly related to any increase in actual cost:

- a) groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice, cleaning supplies;
- b) construction and building materials and supplies, 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.

Citizens who suspect any business or person of price gouging should report that immediately to the Texas Attorney General for investigation: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/how-spot-and-report-price-gouging>

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, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.

EXEMPTIONS

By this same authority, I hereby exempt the following classes of individuals from this Executive Order, PROVIDED that employers are providing appropriate screenings of their employees for COVID-19, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and sending those home who display such symptoms:

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 and telecommunications services in Tyler 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, or emergency response operations.
4. Banks and credit unions, but they are encouraged to limit services as much as practicable to drive up services.

This Order does **NOT** extend to law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, court operations, and to school districts of Tyler County, except as noted in Order #8.

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

All Tyler County Employees must report for work as required by their supervisors.

This Executive Order does not prohibit persons from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained and the above Orders are followed to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

This Executive Order does not mandate sheltering in place at this time. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19.

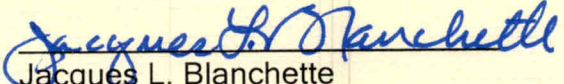
The more people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the faster this Executive Order can expire or be terminated.

Tyler County citizens are strongly implored to keep up with and adhere to the ever-changing guidelines set forth by the CDC and DSHS with regards to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Go to [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for valuable information on this infectious disease.

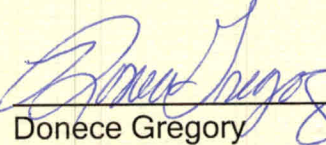
This Executive Order supersedes all previous Orders on this matter, and this Order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding County Judge.

In accordance with Government Code Section 418.108(h), after a declaration of local disaster by the County Judge, the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. Under Government Code 418.173, violations of the declaration of disaster and orders may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in the jail not to exceed 180 days.

Given under my hand this the
23rd Day of March, 2020


Jacques L. Blanchette
Tyler County Judge

ATTESTED BY:


Donece Gregory
Tyler County Clerk

