



DALLAS COUNTY

ORDER OF COUNTY JUDGE CLAY JENKINS

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 12, 2020

Summary: 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 health care 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 prohibits community gatherings, of 500 persons or more anywhere in Dallas County beginning at 11 a.m. on March 13, 2020, and continuing seven days through 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, as defined by Section 3 herein. For all other gatherings, the Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority strongly recommends following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons. Additionally, the Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority strongly urges high-risk individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to cancel, reschedule, or not attend events that will have or will likely have 10 or more people.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

SECTION 108, DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY JENKINS ORDERS:

1. Effective as of 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, public or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3 below) are prohibited anywhere in Dallas County.
2. In addition, the Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services ("Health Authority") strongly recommends canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons. The Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority strongly urges organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. These recommendations are based on the social distancing practices attached to this Order as well as the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority urges people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
3. Definitions:
 - a. For purposes of this Order, a "Community Gathering" is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together five-hundred (500) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.



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- b. An outdoor "Community Gathering" under this Order is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.
 - c. **This Order also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, school or office tower, so long as 500 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Order also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 500 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 500 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., the Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority strongly encourages compliance with the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.**
 - d. For purposes of clarity, a "Community Gathering" does not include the following so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods:
 - i. (i) spaces where 500 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as airports, bus stations or terminals; (ii) office space or residential buildings; (iii) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and (iv) hospitals and medical facilities. In all such settings, the Office of the Dallas County Judge and the Health Authority recommends following the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, and personal hygiene measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible.
4. This Order shall be effective until 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
 5. The County of Dallas must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Dallas County Health and Human Services website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. 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 the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED

**CLAY JENKINS
DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE**