



## **ORDER OF MAYOR RICHARD H. STOPFER**

**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 the City of Irving, Texas, 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 Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly recommend 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 Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly urge 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 418.108, CITY OF IRVING MAYOR RICHARD H. STOPFER HEREBY 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 the City of Irving, Texas.
2. In addition, the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services ("Health Authority") strongly recommend canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons. The Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly urge 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 Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority urge 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.

- 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 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 Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly encourage 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) 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 Mayor, the Office of the Dallas County Judge, and the Health Authority recommend 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. This Order shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the City Secretary. 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**

  
**RICHARD H. STOPFER**  
**MAYOR, CITY OF IRVING**

## **DCHHS 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 (of 10 people or more) 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 arm's length 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) Large Gatherings: Cancel Non-essential Events**

- Recommend cancelling or postponing large gatherings, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions or large community 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 handrails.
  - 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 medium to large events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide 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 screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.

- 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.
- Visitors should not go to long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

### **7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Dallas 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.

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.

## DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, and, in some cases, the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Dallas County, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals, and property and, additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, Dallas County has declared a local disaster for public health emergency and issued an accompanying order relating to community gatherings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVING, TEXAS:

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


SECTION 2. Pursuant to section 418.018(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Irving, Texas.

SECTION 3. 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. Pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Irving's Emergency Management Plan.

SECTION 5. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
Richard H. Stopfer  
Mayor