

**CHAMBERS COUNTY
EXECUTIVE ORDER JS-7
June 24, 2020**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF CHAMBERS COUNTY JUDGE
REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND FACE COVERINGS**

Whereas, on March 12, 2020, Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to allow Chambers County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Chambers County residents in accordance with Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people's interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people; and

Whereas, on March 17, 2020, the Chambers County Commissioners Court issued an Order at a Special Meeting of Commissioners Court approving the extension of the Declaration of Local Disaster declared by County Judge Jimmy Sylvia and signed on March 12, 2020; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

Whereas, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and by approving on March 17, 2020, extension of the Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency, the Chambers County Commissioners Court authorized the Chambers County Judge to take such actions as are necessary in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Chambers County by the issuance of executive orders as necessary (each, an "Executive Order");

Whereas, the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the Chambers County Community and rates of infection are increasing at an alarming rate and the number of people ending up in the hospital, ICU, or on ventilators is also dramatically rising despite efforts by local authorities to control the spread; and

Whereas, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be taken to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate a response to the public health threat;

Whereas, a County Judge acts as the emergency management director for the county and serves as the Governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties during a state of emergency

declared by the Governor in accordance with Section 418.1015(a) and (b) of the Texas Government Code; and

Whereas, a County Judge, serving as the Governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, "may exercise the powers granted to the governor under this chapter on an appropriate local scale" in accordance with Section 418.1015(b) of the Texas Government Code; and

Whereas, a County Judge, serving as the Governor's designated agent in the administration and supervision of duties during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises on an appropriate local scale in accordance with Sections 418.1015 and 418.018 of the Texas Government Code; and

Whereas, upon Declaration of a Local Disaster, a County Judge is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in accordance with Section 418.108(g) of the Texas Government Code; and

Whereas, it is the intent of this Executive Order to remain as consistent with and to harmonize, to the extent possible, the executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott; and

Whereas, by the authority vested in me as Chambers County Judge and as the Emergency Management Director for Chambers County to continue to protect the health and safety of the community and address developing and rapidly changing circumstances when presented by the current public health emergency, I issue this Executive Order in their place.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020, and continuing through 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, unless extended, modified or terminated early by Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia or as otherwise indicated below:

- I.** **Public Health Emergency.** That this Executive Order shall incorporate and adopt the most recent executive order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on June 3, 2020, and any subsequent orders by the Governor relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

- II.** **Health and Safety Policy — Commercial Entities.** From the date of this Executive Order, all commercial entities in Chambers County providing goods or services directly to the public must develop, post, and implement a health and safety policy ("Health and Safety Policy"). The Health and Safety Policy must require, at a minimum, that all employees or visitors to the commercial entity's business premises or other facilities wear face coverings when in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Order may also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19. For the purposes of this order, this section shall also include all county-owned buildings and facilities open to the public.

Commercial entities must post the health and safety policy required by this Executive Order in this paragraph in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employees and visitors of all health and safety requirements. Failure to develop and implement the Health and Safety Policy required by this Executive Order within five (5) calendar days following the Effective Date may result in a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation.

III. Face Coverings — General Public. Except for the exemptions below, all people 10 years or older shall wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a commercial entity or working in areas in a commercial entity that involve close proximity with others. The CDC advises face coverings for people 2 years or older. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Chambers County residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside the home. Chambers County employees also are required to wear face coverings under the same circumstances as the general public.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PEOPLE NOT OBTAIN OR WEAR MEDICAL MASKS or N-95 RESPIRATORS AS THEY ARE A NEEDED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS. Our healthcare workers and first responders on the front-line combating COVID-19 must have priority access to medical masks or other personal protective equipment. Face coverings do not need to be worn in the following circumstances:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
- When consuming food or drink.


Please note that face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. **Face coverings are *not* a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick.** All people should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask. Residents should keep up the following habits while in public:

- washing hands before you leave home and when you return;
- staying at least six feet away from others;
- avoiding touching nose or face;
- not using disposable masks more than three times; and
- washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

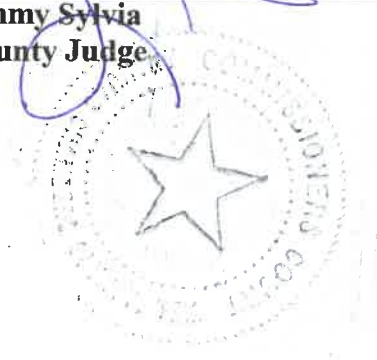
Consistent with Executive Order GA-26 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.

- IV. Severability.** If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, 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.
- V. Interpretation and Additional Terms.** To the greatest extent possible, this Executive Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Executive Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.
- VI. Enforcement.** Excepting Section III of this Executive Order and in accordance with the limitations contained in the executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott, any peace officer or other person with lawful authority is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Executive Order in accordance with the authority granted under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 (Section 418.173 of the Texas Government Code) and pursuant to Section V.A.6 Annex U of the Chambers County Basic Plan as adopted.
- VII. Posting.** Chambers County will post this Order on the Internet.

This Executive Order shall take effect at 12:01AM on June 25, 2020, ORDERED THIS 24th DAY OF June 2020.


Jimmy Sylvia
County Judge


Attest: Heather Hawthorne
County Clerk





Chambers County Public Health
Business Health and Safety Policy Planning Template

1. This plan must be posted in a conspicuous location.
2. This place of business may only operate at the occupancy level and with guidance established per Governor's Order GA-26 and the Open Texas guidance at gov.texas.gov/opentexas.
3. All employees must wear masks when entering this building and screen-in upon entry. Screening-in shall include signing a daily sheet, taking temperature, and checking for symptoms. The employer shall retain the daily sign-in sheets for tracking purposes later.
4. Employees experiencing any symptoms shall not enter this place of business, but shall notify their supervisor immediately and call their primary care provider.
5. All employees must wear masks when in contact with the public, during food preparation, or within 6 feet of co-workers.
6. Customers and persons visiting the place of business shall enter wearing masks, wear masks in common areas, waiting areas, and when within 6 feet of others. **Customers are not required to wear masks when seated at dining tables.**
7. If there are any questions, or to report a potential exposure, please call Chambers County Public Health at 409-267-2731 or email healthdept@chamberstx.gov

