

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER  
CITY OF SEGUIN, TEXAS**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 27, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-18 to begin reopening Texas wherein guidelines and rules were set that completely restrict municipalities ability to regulate under an emergency order; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 26, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-28 wherein he slowed down the reopening of full business, limited gathering to no more than 100 people, and allowed jurisdictions to require masks, but without penalty.

**WHEREAS**, the City's Declaration of Emergency continues and only expires at the same time as the Governor's Order; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last week there has been a large increase in the number of individuals testing positive for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, during the last week the number of persons who have been hospitalized at Guadalupe Regional Medical Center due to COVID-19 has increased drastically; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of people at Guadalupe Regional Medical Center needing critical care due to COVID-19 has increased to the point that hospital resources are strained; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor, serving as the Governor's designated agent in 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 or an appropriate local scale" in accordance with Section 418.1015(b) of the Texas Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, under the City's Declaration of Local Disaster the Mayor is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and occupancy of premises on an appropriate local scale in accordance with Section 418.1015 and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of this Order to remain as consistent with and to harmonize, to the extent possible, the executive orders of the Governor Greg Abbott as extended or modified; and

**WHEREAS**, by the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Seguin, Texas to continue to protect the health and safety of the community and to address developing and rapidly changing circumstances presented by the current health emergency, I issue the following Order:

**NOW THEREFORE, I, DON KEIL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEGUIN, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

**SECTION 1.** That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct.

**SECTION 2.** That effective as of 12:01 a.m. on Friday, June 26, 2020 ("Effective Date") and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on July 7, 2020, unless extended, modified or terminated early by Mayor Don Keil or as otherwise indicated below:

(a) Public Health Emergency. That this Order will incorporate and adopt the most recent Executive Order GA-28 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on June 26, 2020, and any subsequent orders by the Governor relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

(b) Health and Safety Policy - Commercial Entities. That all commercial entities in the City of Seguin providing goods or services directly to the public must develop, post and implement a health and safety policy ("Policy"). The 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 where six (6) feet of separation is not feasible. The 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, such as temperature checks or health screenings. Commercial entities must post the Policy required by this Order in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employees and visitors of all health and safety requirements. Failure to develop and implement a health and safety policy may result in a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

(c) Face Coverings - General Public. Except for the exemptions below, that all people ten (10) years or older must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when in a public place where it is difficult to keep six (6) feet away from other people or working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers. The CDC advises face coverings for people 2 years or older. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or handkerchief. The City of Seguin residents should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet while outside their home. The City of Seguin employees are also required to wear face coverings under the same circumstances as the general public.

**IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU 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:

- (a) When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
- (b) While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- (c) When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk;
- (d) While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment;
- (e) While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks; or
- (f) 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. Everyone should follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask. Residents should keep up with the following habits:

- (a) Washing hands before you leave home and when you return; (b) Staying at least six (6) feet away from others;
- (c) Avoid touching nose or face;
- (d) Not using disposable masks more than three (3) times; and

(e) Washing reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

To be consistent with Executive Order GA-28 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering.

**SECTION 3. Outdoor Gatherings Prohibited.** Outdoor gatherings estimated to be in excess of 100 people are prohibited, except for the following:

- a. any services listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 3.1 or any subsequent version;
- b. religious services, including those conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship;
- c. local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to licensing (including marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government;
- d. child-care services;
- e. youth camps, including but not limited to those defined as such under Chapter 141 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and including all summer camps and other daytime and overnight camps for youths; and
- f. recreational sports programs for youths and adults;

**SECTION 4.** This Order applies to all areas within the boundaries of the City of Seguin, Texas.

**SECTION 5.** That, to the greatest extent possible, this Order will 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 Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

**SO DECLARED AND ORDERED** this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

  
Don Keil, Mayor