



BLANCO COUNTY JUDGE AND BLANCO COUNTY ATTORNEY JOINT PRESS RELEASE REGARDING COVID-19 4-22-20

On April 17, 2020, Texas Governor Abbott held a press conference discussing the issuance of new Executive Orders 15, 16 and 17 pertaining to COVID-19. Specifically, GA-17, effective at the time of the press conference, established a Strike Force to Open Texas. GA-15, effective April 22, 2020, pertains to hospital capacities and details new exceptions to the Governor's previous restrictions on surgeries. GA-16, effective April 24, 2020, details a "Retail-To-Go" model allowing previously restricted retailers the ability to offer delivery and curbside pickup.

In accordance with the Governor's new Executive Orders, on April 20, 2020, Blanco County Judge Brett Bray issued Blanco County Subsequent Order Pursuant to Disaster Declaration. In his Subsequent Order, Judge Bray rescinds his April 7, 2020 Stay in Place Order. Judge Bray emphasizes that the rescission of his Stay in Place Order, including the rescission of the curfew, is not an "all clear" as the Governor's orders are still in place requiring social distancing and defining essential businesses that are allowed to provide services.

Additional provisions of Judge Bray's Subsequent Order require employers to ensure the availability of hand sanitizer or soap and water for employees and hand sanitizer for members of the public. EMS agencies of Blanco County are also authorized to consult with, inspect and ensure each business is operating in a safe manner and in conformity with the Order. The Order further requires an entire household to quarantine at home in the event a member of the household tests positive for COVID-19.

Lastly, Judge Bray's Subsequent Order provides that all law enforcement agencies of Blanco County are authorized to enforce the Governor's Executive Orders and the Blanco County Subsequent Order. A violation of any of these orders is a criminal offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days.

Portions of the Governor's prior orders still remain in place at this time. Therefore, to prevent confusion and misinformation, Judge Bray and Blanco County Attorney Deborah Earley stress the following important orders:

- If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, no more than 10 people may gather for in-person services and those gathering must practice social distancing.
- No gatherings of more than 10 people are allowed.
- No in-person services may be provided at bars, restaurants, gyms or other facilities/businesses listed in GA-16 with the exception that drive-thru, takeout and delivery of food and drinks is permitted.
- No in-person visitations are allowed at nursing homes, retirement, or long-term care facilities.
- Citizens should still remain at home as much as possible on a voluntary basis.
- Use of masks, gloves and sanitizers is strongly encouraged.