

**RECOMMENDATION OF PERSONAL CONTROL MEASURES
RELATED TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (“Commissioner”) Issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in the state of Texas for the purpose of reducing and delaying the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health and Safety Code §81.082, the Public Health Authority has the authority and control over disease control measures within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health and Safety Code §81.082(c) those measures can imposed on a place; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health and Safety Code §81.082(f) those measures can include prevention; and

WHEREAS, under Texas Health and Safety Code §81.084(k) the health authority may impose control measures he considers necessary and most appropriate to arrest, control, and eradicate the threat to the public health; and

WHEREAS, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 within Tom Green County has grown.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. James Vretis, Tom Green County Public Health Authority, pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code §81.082, hereby issue the following RECOMMENDED control measure:

Per the CDC guideline recently issued and the increasing number of positive cases in Tom Green County, it is RECOMMENDED that each person wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost are sufficient. Use of N95 masks or surgical masks is not necessary. Those masks must be reserved for health care workers. Directions on making masks at home can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

This Order is issued under my authority as Public Health Authority for Tom Green County, Texas on this the 5th day of April, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

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James G. Vretis, D.O., Public Health Authority