

ORDER REQUIRING HOTELS FOR THE QUARANTINE, ISOLATION, TREATMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION OF 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(c-1), where there has been a declaration of a public health disaster, the Local Health Authority may designate within the health authority’s jurisdiction, health care facilities for the examination, observation, quarantine, isolation, treatment, or implementation of control; and

WHEREAS, in the March 19, 2020 declaration the Commissioner required each person to act responsibly to prevent and control COVID-19 pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code §82.002 including the following:

1. Limiting trips into the public to essential outings. Traveling to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy or to seek medical care would be considered essential trips.
2. Limit as much as possible close contact with other people
3. Do not gather in social groups of more than ten (10) individuals
4. Allow employees to work at home to the greatest extent possible
5. Restaurants should not allow dine in options, either inside or outside.

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas issued the following four executive orders:

Order No. 1 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Order No. 2 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the City Council of the City of San Angelo and the Tom Green County Judge issued orders which, amongst other things, prohibited Public or Private Community Gatherings and prohibited any restaurant or bar activity with the exception of carry out or delivery services.

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020 Governor Abbott and the City Council of the City of San Angelo continued their orders through April 30, 2020.

WHEREAS, due to the state of the public health disaster within the State of Texas and Tom Green County the Tom Green County the Local Health Authority designated Shannon Medical Center (120 E. Harris Avenue, San Angelo, Texas) and San Angelo Community Medical Center (3501 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, Texas) as facilities appropriate for the examination, observation, quarantine, isolation, treatment, or imposition of control measures during the public health disaster declared on March 19, 2020 and as extended, and

WHEREAS, an analysis of facilities has determined that the beds within Shannon Medical Center and San Angelo Community Medical Center are not sufficient enough in number to handle a surge of COVID-19 cases within Tom Green County, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I James G. Vretis, Tom Green County Public Health Authority, do hereby order the contracting of facilities to include hotels to be used for the quarantine, isolation, treatment or imposition of control measures during the public health disaster declared on March 19, 2020 and as extended.

This Order is issued under my authority as Local Health Authority for Tom Green County, Texas on this the 8th day of April, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

524363837C4E452...
James G. Vretis, D.O. Public Health Authority