

SECOND ORDER OF CITY OF LORENA MAYOR CHUCK ROPER

RELATED TO LOCAL DECLARATION OF DISASTER

DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 24, 2020

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a pandemic and urged that all countries take urgent and aggressive action; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (“Health District”) continued to urge persons to cancel, reschedule, and/or not attend gatherings attended by more than 250 people and made other recommendations regarding social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) lowered the recommended number of persons at mass gatherings to 50 persons; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the City of Lorena closed the restrooms at McBrayer Park through at least April 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Mayor Chuck Roper declared a local state of emergency and health disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared the following 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 or 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 assistances.
- Order No. 4: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

WHEREAS, March 22, 2020, the Governor issued orders dealing with hospital care during the crisis; and

WHEREAS, at his March 22, 2020, press conference, the Governor acknowledged that the urban centers may need to enact more stringent measures to address this public health emergency and stated that he would applaud the cities for doing so; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, by Order of the Commissioners Court of McLennan County, Texas, directing all individuals living in the County to shelter at their place of residence except that they may leave to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities and work for essential businesses and governmental services; and

WHEREAS, because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, the intent to ensure the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue, and the desire to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible, this Order is required; and

WHEREAS, this order is issued based on evidence of increasing occurrence of COVID-19 within the City and throughout the Central Texas area, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable disease generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidenced that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the City places it at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, making the problems worse, some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus; and

WHEREAS, because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gathering can result in preventable transmission of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order helps preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City; and

WHEREAS, local health officials, the local hospitals, and the Health District are calling for this action to flatten the curve of the virus transmission, and have warned that not taking action could result in the medical resources of McLennan County being overcome; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to

undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation; and

WHEREAS, I, Chuck Roper, have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED BY CHUCK ROPER,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LORENA, TEXAS, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108:**

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein and made finding of fact.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of March 18, 2020, declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Lorena.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this Second Order related to the local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City's emergency management plan.
5. All individuals currently living within the City of Lorena, Texas (the "City") are ordered to shelter at their place of residence. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses all defined in Section 10. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to utilize Social Distancing Requirements in their operations).
6. All businesses with a facility in the City, except Essential Businesses as defined below in Section 10, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined in Section 10. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open, however, even Essential Businesses are encouraged to determine essential staff necessary to operate and send non-essential staff home. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 below, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

7. All public or private gatherings (of any number of people occurring outside a household or living unit) are prohibited, except for limited purposes as expressly permitted in Section 10. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
8. All travel, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined below in Section 10, is prohibited. People must use public transit only for purposes of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 below, to the greatest extent feasible. This Order allows travel into or out of the City to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Government Functions.

10. Definitions and Exemptions

- a. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following “Essential Activities:”
 - i. To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitations, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;
 - ii. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.
 - iii. To engage in outdoor activity, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or riding a bicycle. Except for members of a residence who are sheltering together, the individuals shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section;
 - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order, including Minimum Basic Operations; and
 - v. To care for a family member or pet in another household.

But people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

b. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any "Healthcare Operations" including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home health care providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. "Healthcare Operations:" also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. "Healthcare Operations" does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

c. For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "Essential Infrastructure," including, but not limited to, construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.

d. For purposes of this Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others who need to perform essential services are categorically exempt from this Order. Further, nothing in this Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Governmental Functions," as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.

e. For the purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.

f. For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Businesses" means:

- i. Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;
- ii. Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), and liquor stores. This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- iii. Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
- iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;

- v. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- vi. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
- vii. Banks and related financial institutions;
- viii. Hardware and construction supply stores;
- ix. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
- x. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- xi. Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers;
- xii. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up or take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site. **Note:** Patrons may not wait inside a restaurant for their food orders. If there is a line or gathering of persons (outside of their vehicles) waiting to be served, this places everyone in the line or gathering at a higher risk of transmission of COVID-19. Restaurants are urged to create a system that does not involve such lines or gatherings of people waiting to order or waiting to receive their order. For example, a system where the customers call in their order and stay in or at their vehicles until notified that their order is ready---with only one customer at the transaction point at a time, or other methods that assure that the purposes of this Order and Declaration are served is necessary. Stressing the need for call ahead or internet ordering will also cut down on waiting time and could be used in conjunction with the customer calling in or texting when he or she has arrived to allow for straight to vehicle service. If lines cannot be avoided, it shall be the restaurant management's responsibility to assure that safe Social Distancing is practiced. This also applies to food trucks;
- xiii. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- xiv. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- xv. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- xvi. Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- xvii. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- xviii. Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- xix. Professional services: legal, accounting, insurance, real estate services (including appraisal, survey, and title services);
- xx. Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:

- A. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day);
 - B. Children shall not change from one group to another;
 - C. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate area and shall not mix with each other; and
 - D. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children;
- xxi. Utilities, telecommunications, trash collection and disposal, law enforcement, EMS/ambulance, corrections, dispatch, animal shelters, governmental employees who have not been specifically deemed non-essential and sent home by the government entity;
- xxii. Janitorial and maintenance services, funeral industry, defense industry, space and technology industry, technology support, and scientific research; and
- xxiii. Religious services provided in residences, Healthcare Operations, at funerals, or provided online while being broadcast from a religious facility.

g. For the purposes of this Order, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

- i. The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions; and
- ii. The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

h. For the purposes of this Order, "Essential Travel" includes travel for any of the following purposes:

- i. Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations;
- ii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons;
- iii. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services;
- iv. Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction;
- v. Travel required by law enforcement or court Order; or
- vi. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the City.

Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the City remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section.

- i. For purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, and similar facilities.
- j. For purposes of this Order, "Social Distancing Requirements" includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.
- k. For the purposes of this Order, door-to-door peddling, soliciting or canvassing for any business purpose is not considered essential. Active permits for such business activity are hereby revoked, and no permits for such activity will be issued during the term of this Order.

11. Non-essential businesses shall shut down except for maintaining Minimum Basic Operations as defined herein. Essential Businesses exempted from shut-down are encouraged to determine staff who are essential to operations, and to send non-essential staff home

12. When people need to leave their places of residence, whether to obtain or perform vital services, or to otherwise facilitate authorized activities necessary for continuity of social and commercial life, they should at all times reasonably possible comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 10 above.

13. This order shall become effective at 11:59 pm on March 24, 2020, and will remain in effect for fourteen (14) days.

14. All public, private, and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Lorena and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period to the Health District:

- a. the number of COVID-19 tests performed; and
- b. the number of positive COVID-19 tests.

Such laboratories shall not provide names or other individually identifiable health information that could be used to identify an individual patient. This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

15. All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent. If any provisions of this Order conflict with a previous Order of the Mayor, this Order controls.

16. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.

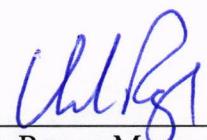
17. That a violation of this order shall be a Class C misdemeanor and the penalty for violating this order shall be a fine of not less than one dollar (\$1.00) and no more than one thousand

dollars (\$1,000.00), and each day a violation exists shall be a separate offense. That this declaration also hereby authorizes the use of any other lawfully available enforcement tools.

18. The City of Lorena must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting it on the City of Lorena website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

19. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, 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.

ORDERED this the 24rd day of March, 2020.



Chuck Roper, Mayor
Lorena, Texas



ATTEST:



Monica Hendrix
City Secretary