

CITY OF ROYSE CITY DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of cases that have spread into the United States and the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States signals that transmission of the virus is occurring;

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath and, in some cases, the virus has caused death;

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout North Texas, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals and property, and additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all Counties in Texas for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people’s interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, the Mayor for the City of Royse City issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Royse City is unique in that it occupies three different counties (Collin, Hunt, and Rockwall) for which a variety of emergency orders have been issued. In order to provide a unified enforcement approach for City personnel and to provide continuity to City residents, I hereby direct City personnel to focus enforcement on this Order for purposes of the current emergency situation. In putting forth this Order, the City Council has tried to incorporate the various county orders into this Order. If any resident, business owner, or other individual has questions regarding emergency orders issued by another governmental entity, they are to direct those questions to that governmental entity.

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the City Council for the City of Royse City issued an Order Extending Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed that the Mayor’s order, and modifies the Mayor’s order as set forth below. The Declaration of Local Disaster is extended until rescinded by order of the Mayor or as set forth in this Declaration; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City’s response to this situation and hereby activate the City of Royse City Emergency Management Plan as provided for in chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROYSE CITY, COLLIN, HUNT AND ROCKWALL COUNTIES, TEXAS, THAT:

1. Gathering Restrictions.

- a. All individuals currently living within corporate limits of the City of Royse City, regardless of whether they reside in Collin, Hunt, or Rockwall counties, are ordered to remain at their place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as 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, or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, or otherwise as set out below.
- b. In order to more effectively control movements of persons and the occupancy of certain premises, all businesses operating within the City of Royse City, except those set out below, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City of Royse City. To the greatest extent possible, all businesses shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines attached, including maintaining six foot social distancing for both employees and the general public.
- c. All public or private gatherings of more than 10 people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
- d. Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.
- e. Religious and worship services may only be provided by video, audio and teleconference. Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to ten (10) people or less when preparing for or conducting video, audio or teleconference services, or when providing other necessary church-related functions and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines including the six foot social distancing.
- f. All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures are prohibited anywhere in the City of Royse City. Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental offices, and other medical facilities are directed to identify procedures that are deemed "elective" based on patient risk and with consideration to the emergency need for redirection of resources to COVID-19 response.

2. Definitions:

- 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 (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies needed 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 (for example, food, pet supply, 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, including work-related activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, running, landscaping, and gardening).
 - iv. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
 - v. To care for a family member or pet in another household.
- b. For purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means:
- i. **Essential Healthcare Operations.** These include healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations; healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities. Healthcare operations do not include elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures as established in accordance with Subsection 1(f) of this Order.
 - ii. **Essential Government Functions.** All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing “Essential Government Functions.” All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet, to the extent possible.
 - iii. **Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) including public works construction, residential and commercial construction and sales, 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), financial institutions, defense and national security-related operations, essential manufacturing operations provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet, to the extent possible. Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines attached.
 - iv. **Essential Retail, Production and Manufacturing Facilities.** These include food service providers, including grocery stores, food manufacturers, food providers, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers’ markets that sell food products and household staples; food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock; businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;

restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out; schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only (the restriction of delivery or carry out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities); laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers; gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair and sales, hardware stores, and related facilities, and; businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.

- v. **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.** Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.
 - vi. **Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.** These include trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries; plumbers, mechanics, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses; professional services, such as legal or accounting services, stock brokers, realtors, financial advisors, title companies and insurance services; businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate.
 - vii. **Supplies for Essential Businesses, Critical infrastructure and Essential Government Functions.** These include businesses that supply other Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Functions with support or supplies necessary to operate, including but not limited to computers, computer components, audio and video electronics, hardware, paint, electrical and plumbing material, sanitary equipment, and food and beverages.
 - viii. **News Media.** These include newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.
 - ix. **Childcare Services.** These include childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.
3. Businesses consisting exclusively of employees or contractors may continue operations only if they maintain social distancing and at least a six foot separation between individuals. Other individuals may not come onto the premises.
 4. **Isolation of Persons with Coronavirus.** If any member of a household tests positive for coronavirus, all members of the household not admitted to a hospital or other similar healthcare facility are **ORDERED** to isolate at home and cannot attend work, school, or any other community function until directed by a healthcare authority.
 5. **At-Risk Populations.** Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
 6. **Effective Date.** This Order shall be effective until 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.

7. **City Hall actions/waivers.** In an effort to increase social distancing in City owned facilities, the City Manager is hereby directed to take measures to facilitate online payments to and online interaction with the City. The City Manager is hereby authorized to waive online payment fees and to take other measures to mitigate impacts on City residents and businesses (for example, extension of deadlines and waivers from regulatory ordinances).
8. **Economic assistance.** To develop a plan to mitigate the economic impact on businesses within the City, I hereby direct the Community Development Corporation to establish a program(s) to address such consequences.
9. **Penalties.**
 - a. These regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the City Secretary.
 - b. A person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for each offense.
 - c. A person who violates any provision of these regulations and fails to cease such violation upon a lawful order of a peace officer, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
 - d. Upon request by a peace officer who has probable cause to believe that a business has violated any provisions of these regulations, the Director of Public Works may disconnect utility service to such business. Any business whose utilities are disconnected pursuant to this provision is entitled to an appeal of such decision to an administrative hearing process as established in article 7.02 of the City of Royse City Code of Ordinances.
10. **Cancellation of City meetings.** All meetings, other than City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings, are cancelled for the duration of this Order. The Mayor may cancel, or call, other meetings, so long as there is at least one (1) City Council meeting per month.
11. **Request for Interpretation.** For purposes of interpretation of this Order, the City Attorney is the public official responsible for interpreting this Order as set forth in section 8.03(b) of the Texas Penal Code and the City Attorney is authorized to issue written interpretations of this Order to residents and businesses of the City.
12. The City of Royse City shall promptly provide notice of this Order by posting this Order on their 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. 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.

DECLARED this 24th day of March 2020.


Janet Nichol, Mayor
City of Royse City, Texas