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**MANDATORY COUNTYWIDE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER TO SLOW
COVID-19 BEGINS WEDNESDAY AT 12:01 AM**

Order to last for 14 days, between Wednesday, March 25, to Wednesday, April 8

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (March 24, 2020) — The mandatory countywide Shelter in Place Order to slow the spread of COVID-19 will begin Wednesday, March 25, at 12:01 a.m. The order will be effective for 14 days, through 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, unless otherwise directed by Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño.

The full order can be read [here](#).

Everyone who lives in Cameron County must shelter at their place of residence. All public and private events, regardless of the number of people, happening outside a home or housing facility are prohibited — with a few exceptions for essential travel and business. Anyone who fails to comply with the order may be fined up to \$1,000 per violation or may receive jail time not to exceed 180 days.

The shelter in place mandate applies to everyone, except for:

- People doing tasks that are essential to their and their families' (including pets) health and safety, such as going to the doctor, picking up medical supplies, caring for a family member in another household, picking up supplies they need to work from home, or shopping for groceries and sanitation supplies;
- People who go outdoors to walk, hike, bike, or run, as long as they comply with social distancing requirements;
- Families of school-aged children picking up meal and school packets for their children; and
- Personnel who work at a business or service considered essential, such as:
 - Healthcare providers (including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, mental health providers, home healthcare service providers, and veterinary care);
 - Public works (including services necessary to operate and maintain housing, airport, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, and internet);
 - Government (including first responders, emergency management, courts, law enforcement, and schools [as identified by the school system]);
 - Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, food banks, convenience stores, and other businesses that sell, ship, or deliver food and household products;
 - Agriculture, food and beverage production and distribution;

- Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services for people in need;
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- Gas stations, auto supply and auto repair facilities;
- Banks and related financial institutions;
- Hardware stores;
- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, HVAC repairs, and other services that maintain safety and sanitation for homes and essential businesses;
- Landscaping and pool cleaning services;
- Mailing and shipping services;
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- Restaurants, for the purpose of preparing and serving food from drive-thru, delivery, or carry out;
- Businesses that supply products needed by people who work from home and essential businesses;
- Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation for hire;
- Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- Professional services, such as legal or accounting services;
- Funeral homes; and
- Childcare and adult daycare facilities (must comply with CDC and Department of Health Services guidelines).

Everyone must comply with social distancing requirements, including:

- Maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other people;
- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or using hand sanitizer;
- Covering coughs or sneezes using a sleeve or elbow;
- Cleaning high-touch surfaces regularly; and
- Refraining from shaking hands.

Restaurants may only prepare and serve food from drive-thru, delivery, or carry out, and may not operate later than 10 p.m.

Eviction hearings, writs of possession, and foreclosure hearings have been suspended for at least the next 30 days to prevent residents from being displaced from their homes at this time.

Due to the increased demand for bath or toilet tissue, stores may sell up to twelve rolls per purchase, or one package per purchase.

For more information on City of Brownsville efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus, go to <https://btxcares.com/>.

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