

CONTACT: Felipe Romero
felipe.romero@cob.us

AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

On March 17th, Mayor Juan “Trey” Mendez III issued a local disaster declaration needed to give the City of Brownsville additional authority to undertake measures to help contain and mitigate COVID- 19. Today, March 24, 2020, the City Commission approved an Amended Declaration of Local Disaster to include the following containment measures attached in the communication to Brownsville citizens and takes immediate effect.

“The lessons we are learning from communities across the nation and the globe is that aggressive measures implemented sooner, rather than later, promise to protect our community and our community’s most vulnerable members,” said Mayor Mendez.

The disaster declaration was issued under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and Section §418.108(A) of the Texas Government Code.

The following Amended Declaration measures are put in place until **April 7, 2020**:

- Restaurants and bars shall permit delivery, pick up and take-out only. Downtown City metered parking will be immediately suspended in order to support these measures. Parking areas within Shopping Areas are also strongly encouraged to create takeout and delivery designated parking spaces.
- Bingo establishments are closed.
- Religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconference. Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to ten (10) people or less when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines including the six (6) foot social distancing.
- All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures are prohibited anywhere in the City. Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental offices, and other medical facilities are directed to identify procedures that are deemed “elective” by assessing which procedures can be postponed or cancelled based on patient risk considering the emergency need for redirection of resources to COVID-19 response.
- Child day care centers shall not have more than ten (10) children per room and comply with the six (6) foot social distancing requirement, as well as state requirements.
- Adult day care centers shall not have more than ten (10) adults per room and comply with the six (6) foot social distancing requirement, as well as

state requirements.

- All City libraries are closed.
- All City of Brownsville residents are strongly encouraged to use online services and drive-thru services while doing business with the City.
- Brownsville bus service, BMetro is continuing to implement social distancing measures. No more than ten (10) individuals may ride a bus at one time.
- The Brownsville/South Padre Island Airport is limiting access into the Terminal Building to ticketed passengers only. All Airport users are strongly encouraged to participate in the Airport provided thermal scan.
- City events are cancelled until further notice.
- General Public and Private Community Events are cancelled until further notice.
- The City Commission will continue to meet remotely. We strongly encourage members of the public to watch proceedings on www.cob.us.
 - In-person meetings of city advisory boards, commissions and bureaus are cancelled, however meetings may occur remotely.
- The City encourages members of the public to seek city services through the city's website or by telephone.
- Private events on city or private facilities are cancelled until further notice. Fees and deposits for the facility rentals will be refunded or applied toward a rescheduled event.
- Any action for eviction to recover possession of residential property under Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code and Rule 510 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, shall be in accordance with Texas Supreme Court Order Issued March 19, 2020, which states:
 - a. No trial, hearing, or other proceeding may be conducted, and all deadlines are tolled, until after April 19, 2020;
 - b. A writ of possession may issue, but the posting of the written warning required by § 24.0061(d)(1) of the Property Code and the execution of the writ of possession may not occur until after April 26, 2020, and the deadlines in Rules 510.8(d)(1)-(d)(2) are tolled while this Order remains in effect; and



CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

c. New filings may be accepted, but the time period in Rule 510.4(a)(10) is suspended, and issuance and service of citation may not occur until after April 19, 2020.

The Peace Officers, City of Brownsville Health Inspectors, Code Enforcement/Ordinance Officers/Inspectors, Traffic Specialists and Brownsville Fire Marshal are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 in accordance with the City of Brownsville Code of Ordinances Chapter 1 - Section 1.13 General Penalty.

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus.

Please share and encourage others to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For the most up-to-date information on how City of Brownsville is handling the rapidly changing circumstances, please visit our website at <https://www.cob.us/2066/Coronavirus-Updates>

###