



JOHN H. GOTHIA
COUNTY JUDGE
ORANGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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For Immediate
Release POC:
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FIRST AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I, John H. Gothia, duly elected Judge of Orange County, based on most recent information received from the Emergency Management Offices personnel and Public Health Authorities issue this **ORDER REGARDING THE OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES:**

Under the authority granted to me by Chapter 418, Texas Government Code, a disaster declaration has been issued effective on March 13, 2020. Additionally, pursuant to Section 418.108(d) and (g), Texas Government Code, I hereby issue the following orders in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control:

- 1) Any gathering sponsored or permitted by Orange County shall cease.
- 2) Gatherings of greater than 10 persons shall cease at all public facilities across Orange County.
- 3) Regarding privately owned facilities: There shall be no gathering of more than 10 persons.
- 4) Bars and nightclubs shall be closed.
Restaurants shall close for dine-in services but may use delivery and take out options.
- 5) Grocery stores, convenience stores and any supply type store are encouraged to remain open but citizens are urged to use the delivery or curbside services where available or use Social Distancing.
- 6) Nursing homes and senior living centers shall limit visitation of the public within their facilities. This does not include medical therapeutic support and medical personnel. This also does not include food & supply delivery.

7) It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hour curfew on citizens 17 years of age and under shall be in place immediately throughout Orange County for all individuals who:

- a) are not in school,
- b) are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent or guardian, or
- c) are not going directly to their place of employment or going directly home from that place of employment.

This Order does not apply to special needs students during the times local school districts are required by federal law to provide those students services.

WHEREAS, this state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

It is therefore ORDERED that the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon execution of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or this Order may be amended:

PRICE CONTROLS

A person shall not sell or offer to sell any of the following goods or services for more than the price the person charged for the goods or services before March 12, 2020:

- a) groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice;
- b) construction and building materials and supplies and earthmoving equipment and machinery;
- c) electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and accessories;
- d) charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns;
- e) hand tools(manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental;
- f) automotive parts, supplies and accessories;
- g) plumbing and electrical tools and supplies;
- h) apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental;
- i) gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants;
- j) restaurant, cafeteria and boarding house meals;
- k) services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies;
- l) medicine, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies;
- m) blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed liners, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsheets, bedsteads, towels and toilet paper; and
- n) furniture and clothing.

Price increases on the above described goods or services are permitted only if such increases accurately reflect an actual, and documented, increase in the cost of new stock or the cost to transport it, plus the retailers average markup percentage applied during the 10 days immediately prior to the declaration of a state of emergency.

PENALTIES

These price control regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the County Clerk.

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations shall be, upon conviction, subject to a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.

By this same authority, I hereby exempt the following classes of individuals from this Emergency Order, PROVIDED that these employers are providing appropriate screenings of their employees for COVID-19, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and sending home those who display such symptoms:

1. Those employees of oil terminals, pipelines and oil supply facilities and servicing contractors that are essential for and who are actively involved in the operations of the facilities, transportation and receiving of oil and chemical supplies, refining and operations petrochemical facilities, in Orange County and such other employees who are deemed essential to the operation of such facilities by their employer.

2. Those employees of hospitals, trauma centers, nursing homes, convalescent facilities or other healthcare providers who are essential for and who are actively involved in providing medical treatment and/or housing for persons who are ill or infirm and who are not evacuated.

3. Those employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments, Political Subdivisions, and Special Purpose Districts who are deemed essential by their employer for law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, including jury operations.

COUNTY/CITY OPERATIONS


This order does **NOT** extend to law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, court operations, including jury operations, and to all school districts of Orange County.

The Mayor of each City within Orange County shall determine the scope of operations of municipal employees.

All Orange County Employees must report for work as required by their supervisors. All work related travel of County employees shall cease.

This order shall take effect at 11:59pm Tonight, March 20, 2020, and shall remain in effect until amended or terminated.

SIGNED this 20th day of March, 2020



John H. Gothia, Orange County Judge
Orange County, TX

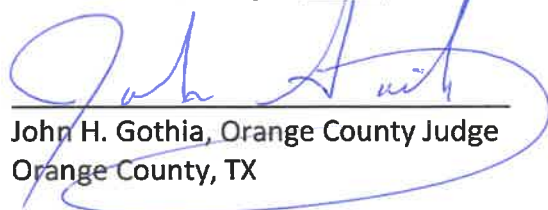
RECOMMENDATIONS TO FIRST AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER

The following recommendations are made in order to preserve, protect and defend the life and safety of all citizens of Orange County:

- a) All non-essential travel should be suspended.
- b) Conduct all business electronically or via telephone to the greatest extent possible.
- c) Practice Social Distancing in the following (The practice of limiting contact to prevent the spread of infection or disease). Avoid:
 - a. group gatherings
 - b. malls and stores
 - c. sporting events
 - d. gym workouts
 - e. concerts
 - f. sleepovers and play dates
 - g. movie theaters
 - h. cruise / air travel
 - i. indoor play spaces
- d) Practice thorough self-hygiene
 - a. cover coughs/sneezes
 - b. do not touch your face
 - c. stop handshaking - use other non-contact methods of greeting
 - d. clean hands properly and schedule regular handwashing routines
 - e. promote tap and pay to limit handling of cash
 - f. disinfect surfaces often (doorknobs, tables, desk, handrails)
 - g. increase ventilation by opening windows and adjusting air conditioning

This Order specifies no gatherings with greater than 10 persons.

SIGNED this 20th day of March, 2020



John H. Gothia, Orange County Judge
Orange County, TX