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ORDER NO. 18
BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
COVID-19 MINIMUM HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS
DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 15, 2022

DELIA BRIONES
COUNTY CLERK
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency and the El Paso County Judge issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, since the start of the pandemic, Governor Abbott has consistently renewed the Texas COVID-19 disaster declaration each month with the most recent renewal taking place on February 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS, though local COVID-19 cases continue to decrease, the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains and new variants of the virus are expected to occur; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19, El Pasoans are urged to get the COVID-19 vaccine, including boosters when eligible; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends individuals that are sick and need to be around others, or that are caring for someone who has COVID-19 to wear a mask; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the CDC continues to encourage individuals ages two years and older to wear a mask indoors when in an area with a high COVID-19 Community Level; and

WHEREAS, because El Paso is currently at a medium COVID-19 Community Level, the use of a face covering remains an available preventative measure but is no longer an urgent health necessity; and

WHEREAS, individuals that are at high risk for severe illness should talk to their healthcare provider about whether their continued use of a face covering as a precaution remains necessary; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the reduced risk and severity of COVID-19 in the community, the local administrative Judge Linda Chew has adopted updated Minimum Health Standards Protocols for court buildings and the courthouse which are incorporated by reference into this Order.

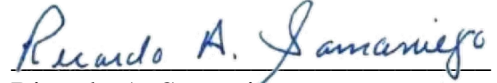
NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

1. County Judge Order. No. 17, as amended, is repealed.

2. All El Pasoans are urged to remain vigilant, and practice COVID-19 preventative measures as recommended by the CDC.
3. This Order No. 18 shall incorporate by reference the 2022 COVID-19 Minimum Health Standards Protocols for the El Paso County, Texas Judiciary, as readopted and amended by the local administrative judge.
4. Order No. 18 shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by a subsequent order.

ORDERED THIS 15th day of March 2022.

COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS



Ricardo A. Samaniego,
El Paso County Judge