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DELIA BRIONES  
COUNTY CLERK  
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

**ORDER NO. 15**  
**BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**WORK SAFE/STAY SAFE ORDER**  
**DATE ORDER ISSUED: NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV-2 which causes the disease COVID-19 was identified; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott and El Paso County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego each issued declarations of disaster pursuant to Chapter 418, Texas Government Code, in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, the El Paso County Commissioners Court issued an Emergency Order extending the County Judge's state of disaster and instituting emergency measures due to a public health emergency until terminated by order of the El Paso County Commissioners Court; and

**WHEREAS**, both the State of Texas and County of El Paso remain under a state of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, on March 13, 2020 the County Judge issued Local Emergency Orders No.1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4; on March 17, 2020 Order No. 5; on March 21, 2020 Order No. 6; on March 24, 2020 Order No. 7; on March 30, 2020 the First Amendment to Order No. 7; on April 29, 2020 Order No. 8; on April 30, 2020 the First Amendment to Order No. 8; on May 7, 2020 the Second Amendment to Order No. 8; on May 21, 2020 the Third Amendment to Order No. 8; on May 28, 2020 the Fourth Amendment to Order No. 8; on June 12 Order No. 9; on June 18 the First Amendment to Order No. 9; on June 29, the Second Amendment to Order No. 9; on June 29 Order No. 10; and on July 2 the Third Amendment to Order No. 9 and; on September 21, 2020 Order No. 11; on October 13 the First Amendment to Order No. 11, on October 16, 2020 the Second Amendment to Order No.11; on October 22, 2020

the Third Amendment to Order No. 11; on October 25, 2020 Order No. 12; on October 29, 2020 Order No. 13; on November 11, 2020 Order No. 14; and

**WHEREAS**, the positivity rate 7-day rolling average for COVID-19 on November 23, 2020 was 14.46%; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 23, 2020 there are 36,640 active COVID-19 cases in El Paso County; and

**WHEREAS**, from October 23, 2020 to November 23, 2020 44,471 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases and 155 deaths were reported; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 23, 2020, El Paso County had 7-day average of 101 cases per 100,000 population; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 23, 2020, the hospitalization rate as reported by the El Paso City-County Public Health Authority is 41% which is having a detrimental effect on El Paso's health system; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 23, 2020, the hospitalization rate of COVID-19 patients, as reported by the El Paso City-County Public Health Authority, is more than triple the 15% capacity that the Governor of Texas has identified as a critical metric which requires consideration of further shutdowns and emergency action; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 20, 2020 according to the Texas Department of Health Services data, Hispanics represent 39.3% of all COVID-19 positive cases in Texas and represent 54% of all COVID-19 fatalities in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the efforts by our community and its leadership and previous efforts by the State, El Paso County is experiencing higher infectivity and expected increased deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, as El Paso County's positive COVID-19 cases are worse today than when the first Stay at Home Order was issued; and

**WHEREAS**, as County Judge of El Paso County I call on every person, business, and organization to each do their part to work safe, stay home, and if opening their business to do so following the guidelines outlined in this Order and relevant guidelines, recommendations, Orders and Directives; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso County is overwhelmed with the excessive number of decedents, and now funeral homes and hospitals are requiring state and federal assistance in order to handle the mass fatalities, and El Paso County is now utilizing multiple mobile morgues to handle the excessive number of deceased people in El Paso County; and

**WHEREAS**, as County Judge I will direct County resources to enforce compliance with this Order.

**NOW THEREFORE, TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 THROUGHOUT EL PASO COUNTY AND TO REDUCE THE INFECTION RATE OF THE PEOPLE CONSIDERED AT RISK THAT WILL REQUIRE HOSPITALIZATION AND TO LIMIT DEATH FROM COMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

#### **SECTION 1. SHELTER-AT-HOME**

1. All individuals currently living within El Paso County, Texas **ARE STRONGLY URGED TO SHELTER AT HOME IN THEIR 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 maintain Physical Distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.
2. It is **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** and **RECOMMENDED** that all commercial businesses operating within El Paso County, except essential covered businesses, cease all activities at facilities that may not be provided by curbside, drive-through, or take-out services. Individuals that choose to leave their homes **SHALL** limit their visit to one member of the household, unless serving as a caregiver.
3. **Individuals shall not** be in groups larger than ten (10), including those within the individual's household, and shall maintain six feet of social distancing from those not in their group. Within these groups, individuals shall minimize in-person contact with others not in the household. This restriction applies to gatherings of any type in individuals' homes. See [www.dshs.texas.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx](http://www.dshs.texas.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx), Minimum Standard Health Protocols for All Individuals. Additionally, people over the age of 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and if leaving home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation. See [www.dshs.texas.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx](http://www.dshs.texas.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx), Special Guidance for Texans Over 65.

4. Individuals are **STRONGLY ADVISED** to:

1. cancel traditional holiday celebrations to include Thanksgiving celebrations
2. avoid travel.

**5. Social Distancing Requirements.** To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they shall to the greatest extent feasible, maintain Social Distancing of at least six feet from any person who is not from the same household, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section. For purposes of this Order Social Distancing Requirements include maintaining at least six-foot Social Distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

## **SECTION 2. CURFEW**

A curfew shall be imposed between the hours of 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM for all social activities. For example, a social activity would be congregating in any area outside of an individual's household other than for engaging and seeking the services of essential or non-essential businesses as outlined in this Order. Curfew restrictions shall end at 5:00 AM on Monday, November 30, 2020.

## **SECTION 3. ELECTION ACTIVITIES ARE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER**

Election activities shall be considered an essential function and under no circumstances does this Order affect the voting or campaigning for candidates on the December 12, 2020 ballot. Election activities shall continue to follow Public Health Authority Orders and Guidelines relating to election activities. The public should be assured that election activities are safe and follow all appropriate social distancing and face covering measures.

## **SECTION 4. ESSENTIAL COVERED SERVICES**

It is **STRONGLY URGED** that residents stay at home whenever possible and leave their residence only to obtain or provide the following essential activities which shall herein be defined as ("Essential Covered Services"):

1. 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).
2. To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of households, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, obtaining groceries and supplies needed for the home).
3. To engage in outdoor activity, such as visiting open parks, fishing, engaging in physical activity like walking, running, or bicycling, provided the individuals, follow CDC

Guidance, comply with Physical Distancing including maintaining six-foot (6) physical distancing from each other; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds or using hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and covering mouth and nose when conducting activity within six feet (6) of another person.

4. To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Covered Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
5. To care for a family member, a child or pet in another household.
6. Election Activities as described in this Order.
7. Religious Activities as described in this Order.

## **SECTION 5. TRAVEL**

To the greatest extent possible, all travel should be limited to obtaining or performing Essential Covered Services, travel as permitted by law, or as follows:

1. “Essential Travel” includes travel for any of the following purposes:
  1. Any travel related to the provision of or access to essential covered services
  2. Any travel for employment purposes, to include for those non-essential services and employment
  3. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
  4. Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and business operations.
  5. Travel to return to a place of residence, including from outside the jurisdiction.
  6. Travel required by First Responders, Law Enforcement or court order.
  7. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the County.
  8. Travel for voters, election workers, poll watchers, and electioneering.

Travel should be limited to one person of the same household per vehicle for obtaining Essential Covered Services, essential Healthcare Operations, Government Functions, Essential Commercial services, and for individuals traveling to non-essential jobs and employment, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its ***Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce***.

2. To the extent possible public transportation should only be used for purposes of obtaining or performing:
  - a) Essential Covered Services;
  - b) to travel to and from work for the purposes of providing Covered Services; and
  - c) Travel for persons obtaining or going to work in the non-essential service sector

All public transportation activities must be performed in compliance with physical distancing including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public; washing hands with soap and water at least twenty seconds often or using hand sanitizer covering

coughs and sneezes; cleaning high-touch surfaces; not shaking hands; and requiring the wearing of facial covering mouth and nose.

3. Individuals should avoid all non-essential out-of-state travel.

**SECTION 6. FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT.** Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, **the covering of a person's nose and mouth** is necessary to help slow the spread of the virus. Therefore, every person in El Paso **shall** wear some form of face covering **over their nose and mouth**, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; *provided, however, that this face covering requirement does not apply to the following:*

- a. Any person younger than 2 years of age (Note, parents and guardians of children over the age of 2 and under the age of 10 are responsible for appropriately making their children wear a face covering as required herein);
- b. Any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- c. Any person while the person is consuming food or drink, or is seated at a restaurant to eat or drink;
- d. Any person while the person is (a) exercising or engaging in physical activity outdoors, indoors, in a gym or exercise facility, individually or in a group and (b) maintaining a safe distance from other people not in the same household;
- e. Any person while the person is driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
- f. Any person obtaining a service that requires temporary removal of the face covering for security surveillance, screening, or a need for specific access to the face, such as while visiting a bank or while obtaining a personal care service involving the face, but only to the extent necessary for the temporary removal;
- g. Any person while the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
- h. Any person who is voting, assisting a voter, serving as a poll watcher, or actively administering an election, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
- i. Any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged;
- j. Any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.

Not excepted from this face-covering requirement is any person attending a protest or demonstration involving more than 10 people and who is not practicing safe social distancing of six feet from other people not in the same household.

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6-foot social distancing and hand-washing, as these remain important steps to slowing the spread of the virus.

It is strongly recommended that you not obtain or wear medical grade masks or N-95 respirators as they are a needed resource for healthcare providers and first responders.

**Violation of Face Covering Requirement.** Following a verbal or written warning for a first-time violator of this face-covering requirement, a person’s second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250. Each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 per violation.

## **SECTION 7. LABORATORY CONFIRMED COVID-19 TEST RESULTS**

An individual that receives a positive COVID-19 test result but that has not yet been contacted by the City’s Department of Public Health within 24 hours of receiving the laboratory results, **are strongly encouraged to** isolate, and those from within their household **should** quarantine, and report to (915) 212-6520 within 24 hours of receiving the positive test result. Healthcare workers and first responders should follow the current Department of Public Health’s Guidelines for Healthcare Workers and First Responders, as published on epstrong.org.

## **SECTION 8. ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION**

1. Individuals that are not employees, vendors, or medical personnel **shall not** visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities. Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.
2. County Parks and Recreation. All County parks, and recreational areas shall close. Hiking, biking, walking and fishing shall be allowed, but all social distancing measures to include the use of face coverings shall be followed and will be enforced. This shall include the closure of County owned golf courses, handball courts, basketball courts, tennis courts, and pools. All tournaments and special events at parks and recreation areas shall be cancelled and prohibited during this period.
3. IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AND RECOMMENDED THAT FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS SUSPEND ALL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, TO INCLUDE SPORT ACTIVITIES, THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THIS ORDER.

**SECTION 9. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR BUSINESSES.** All businesses in El Paso County **shall** develop and implement a health and safety policy (“**Health and Safety Policy**”). The Health and Safety Policy **shall require**, at a minimum, the following:

1. All businesses (this shall include all offices and departments for the County of El Paso) must require employees, including volunteers, to have a face covering when either in an area or performing an activity which will necessarily involve close contact or proximity to co-workers or the public, where six (6) feet of separation from other individuals not in the same household is not feasible, and to the extent allowed by law;
2. All businesses must require that all visitors, to include contractors and vendors, wear face coverings while on the business’s premises;
3. All businesses must maintain and provide face coverings for visitors; and
4. All businesses must post the Health and Safety Policy required by this Order in a conspicuous location sufficient to provide notice to employees, volunteers and visitors.

5. The Health and Safety Policy required to be developed and implemented by this Order may also include other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks and health screenings.
6. All businesses shall train and communicate with their employees and worker representatives on their Health and Safety Policy and make the policy readily available for employees and worker representatives.

For the purposes of this Order, covered businesses include any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure.

**County Essential Government Functions.** For purposes of this Order, County employees that perform essential government functions may continue to work onsite. County employees who can work from home shall do so. County elected officials are strongly encouraged to allow their employees to work from home when possible.

**Violation For Failure to Implement Health and Safety Policy.** Failure to develop and implement the Health and Safety Policy required by this Order by the Effective Date may result in a fine not to exceed \$500 for each violation.

## **SECTION 10. BUSINESS RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Governor Abbott has mandated that non-essential businesses be allowed to open at 50% capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of each business who chooses to reopen to do so responsibly and in compliance with the mandates and guidelines of the Public Health Authority, the State of Texas Minimum Health Standards, and the Department of Public Health.
3. It is likewise the responsibility of the public visiting businesses to adhere to this County Judge Order and follow health protocols.
4. This Order shall incorporate by reference guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health as they pertain to Holiday Gatherings and Holiday Shopping.
5. All municipalities within El Paso County are **STRONGLY URGED** to adopt and amend ordinances, and where relevant, suspend ordinances pertaining to business license and permit regulations for conditions that exist in an establishment that constitute an imminent health hazard, or for failure to comply with any Local Emergency Directive, Health Authority Order, Emergency Ordinance, County Judge Order, or other local, state or federal law relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. All businesses are strongly encouraged and urged to participate in Retail To Go, however a business that chooses to operate may do so at no more than 50 percent of the total listed occupancy of the establishment; provided, however, that there is no occupancy limit for the following:
  - a. Any services listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 4.0. or any subsequent version;

b. Religious services, including those conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship;

c. Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to licensing (including marriage licenses), permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government;

d. Child-care services;

e. Youth camps, including but not limited to those defined as such under Chapter 141 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and including all summer camps and other daytime and overnight camps for youths;

f. Outdoor recreational sports programs for youths and adults without spectators. Professional outdoor recreational sports may allow spectators, in accordance with Order, the State Minimum Standard Health Protocols, and as determined by the owner;

g. Any public or private schools, and any public or private institutions of higher education, not already covered above; and

h. Drive-in concerts, movies, or similar events, under guidelines that facilitate appropriate social distancing, that generally require spectators to remain in their vehicles, and that minimize in-person contact between people who are not in the same household or vehicle; and

i. The following establishments that operate with at least six feet of social distancing between work stations: cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons/shops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers practice their trade; massage establishments and other facilities where licensed massage therapists or other persons licensed or otherwise authorized to practice under Chapter 455 of the Texas Occupations Code practice their trade; and other personal care and beauty services such as tanning salons, tattoo studios, piercing studios, hair removal services, and hair loss treatment and growth services.

**j. Funeral Planning and Funeral Home Operations.** In order for the Medical Examiner's Office, local hospitals, and mortuary services to respond to the overwhelming strain and high number of deaths related to COVID-19 in El Paso County it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AND URGED** that,

i. individuals make funeral arrangements within fifteen (15) days; and

ii. funeral homes limit guest capacity to 10 individuals from the same household.

7. Except as provided otherwise in this Order, there is no occupancy limit for outdoor areas, events, or establishments, with the exception of the following outdoor areas, events, or establishments that may operate at no more than 50 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner:

a. Amusement parks;

- b. Water parks;
- c. Swimming pools;
- d. Museums and libraries; and
- e. Zoos, and similar facilities.

8. All outdoor professional and similar sporting events, including rodeos and equestrian events, shall remain limited to 50 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the owner. No spectators may attend the sporting events contained herein, with the exception of professional sporting events that may allow spectators, in accordance with this Order, State Minimum Standard Health Protocols, and as determined by the owner.

9. Except for indoor professional, and similar sporting events, **all indoor sporting events are suspended.**

10. **Any outdoor gathering in excess of 10 people is prohibited.** This prohibition shall not apply to the activities or gatherings set forth in this Order.

11. All restaurant dine-in services, to include outdoor service, such as on a patio or similar seating area, **shall end** at 9PM, but restaurants may continue to operate after 9PM via take out and drive thru only. Restaurants may resume dine-in services, to include outdoor service, beginning at 6AM. All restaurants are strongly encouraged and urged to offer only curbside or take-out services.

12. For purposes of this Order, facilities with retractable roofs are considered indoor facilities, whether the roof is opened or closed; and

13. Staff members are not included in determining operating levels, except for manufacturing services and office workers.

14. Nothing in this Order precludes requiring a customer to follow additional hygiene measures when obtaining services.

**SECTION 11. BARS OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS.** Under no circumstances shall bars or similar establishments that hold a permit from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and are not restaurants operate. Provided, however, that the use by such bars or similar establishments of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed to the extent authorized by TABC.

**SECTION 12. Incorporation of COVID-19 Transition Task Force Recommendations, Local Public Health Authority Orders, Department of Public Health Guidelines, and Opening the State of Texas Minimum Recommended Health Protocols.**

Local Public Health Authority Orders and Guidelines as well as Department of Public Health Guidelines as found at <http://epstrong.org/health-orders.php> and State of Texas Minimum Recommended Health Protocols as found at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx> for all reopened and/or allowed businesses, activities and services as provided by the Texas Governor, as well as recommendations

from the COVID-19 Transition Task Force, *See Attachment A* for copy of COVID-19 Task Force Recommendations shall be incorporated by reference in this Order.

### **SECTION 13. Enforcement**

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.173(b), it is an offense for an individual to violate a condition or restriction of any Order issued by the El Paso County Judge during the public health crisis/disaster. Unless an alternate penalty is described within a specific Section of this Order No. 12, said offense shall be a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

Any peace officer, including, but not limited to, officers of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the El Paso Police Department, and the Fire Marshal's Office, is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this Order in accordance with the authority granted under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code. To the extent allowed by law, this order may be enforced by any code enforcement officers, code compliance officers, or other similar designation, in the same manner that municipal codes and ordinances are enforced.

**SECTION 14.** This Order of the County Judge applies to all incorporated and unincorporated areas of El Paso County. This includes the Village of Vinton, City of San Elizario, City of Socorro, Town of Horizon City, Town of Clint, Town of Anthony, and City of El Paso. To the extent of conflict between the El Paso County Judge and mayor of any city within the geographic boundaries of El Paso County, the decisions set forth in this Order prevail to fullest extent allowed by law pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(n).

### **SECTION 15. Posting of this Order**

The County will post this Order and links to Public Health Authority Orders and Opening the State of Texas Minimum Recommended Health Protocols. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this **should** post a copy of this Order onsite and provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

### **SECTION 16. Prior Orders**

This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference declarations, ordinances, findings, and recitals set out in the preamble to this Order. Unless specifically referenced in this Order No. 15, all prior County Judge Orders and relevant amendments shall stand superseded. To the greatest extent possible, this Executive Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor. All provisions of the executive orders of Governor Greg Abbott either existing or as, if and when issued, shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Executive Order enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

**SECTION 17. Savings Clause.** 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.

**SECTION 18. DURATION OF ORDER.** This Order shall be **effective beginning Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 12:01 AM** and remain in full force and effect unless otherwise provided in this Order or is modified, rescinded, superseded or amended pursuant to applicable law.

ORDERED this the 24th day of November, 2020.

**COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricardo A. Samaniego". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ricardo A .Samaniego,  
El Paso County Judge

## Taskforce Members

Dr. Ogechika Alozie,  
Co-Chair

Dr. Hector Ocaranza,  
Co-chair

Dr. Nicole Brennan

Dr. Rogelio Covarrubias

Dr. Alison Days

Dr. Joel Hendryx

Dr. Michael Kelly

Dr. Robert Kirken

Jon Law, MPA

Linda Lawson, DNP, RN,  
NEA-BC

Dr. Jose Luna

Dr. Kristi Mena

Dr. Ed Michelson

Col Neil Nelson

Dr. Mario Rascon

Rep. Claudia Rodriguez

Dr. Jeff Schuster

Emma Schwartz, MPH

Com. David Stout

Dr. Michael Woods

500 E. San Antonio,  
Ste. 302A  
El Paso, Texas 79902

(915) 546-2215



### **Dear Borderplex Community,**

The lives of residents from our communities are very closely linked by family, work, or other ties and is something inherent to our region. COVID-19 has been spreading at alarming and unacceptable rates over the last month across our communities on both sides of the border. Our indicators show El Paso at Stage 1 and Ciudad Juarez at Red Level, the highest risk level for each city.

In an attempt to curb viral spread, hospitalizations, and deaths, both cities have been implementing different public health strategies with limited results for various reasons, to include COVID-fatigue, and person-to person interaction at gatherings in particular at homes and restaurant/bars. But each of us has the power to stop this pandemic with our own simple actions. We must continue to be vigilant and consider that each of our actions impacts the spread of the virus and consequently the number of people hospitalized and deaths in our communities.

Until a vaccine is available, the health and well-being of our loved ones are at risk if they become infected with the virus. The solution is within our reach and is very simple. Keep them home, provide them with all their necessities, including food and medications and most importantly, do not gather and assign only one person to check on them.

Another important area that this pandemic has affected is the health of our local economy, our businesses are hurting, many businesses have closed and many more are closing their doors, thus limiting the number of available jobs and many families are impacted from the economic recession.

Therefore, the El Paso United COVID-19 Task Force is recommending all residents to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic by doing the following:

1. Take personal responsibility and prevent exposures by:
  - Know the rules of our regional communities and follow them when in that city.
  - Wear masks properly at all times - covering mouth, nose and chin - when in public.
  - Wash your hands frequently.
  - Reduce person to person interaction as much as possible by:
    - Staying at home as much as possible and only do essential activities outside of the home.
    - Stop gatherings at homes and do NOT participate in gatherings if you are invited.

- NOT visiting relatives; rather, provide them with all necessary goods and medicines in a safe way.
  - Distance yourself at least 6 feet from others while in public, or 10 feet when breathing hard such as when exercising.
  - Get tested!! If you have symptoms (test as soon as possible) or if you were exposed (test after 5-7 days of quarantining). Testing is available whether you have symptoms or not. Go to [www.EPStrong.org](http://www.EPStrong.org) to find out more about testing.
  - Isolate / quarantine while awaiting test results, if you or anyone in your household tests positive, or after an exposure and are waiting to test.
  - Select only one person in the household to do essential activities (grocery shopping, pick up medications, etc.)
  - When the Health Department calls, answer your phone, be honest with the contact tracers and provide all the requested information.
  - If you test positive and you are not contacted by the Health Department within 24 hours after receiving results, call (915) 212-6520 or visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org) to report online.
1. Support local businesses:
- Buy local ([www.buyep.org](http://www.buyep.org)) – many locally owned stores have on-line ordering capabilities.
  - Order take out or from drive thru at a local restaurant.
  - Order on-line from a local business and use curbside or delivery service.
  - If financially able, make donations to local non-profit organizations.
  - Local business owners can access [www.EPBusinessStrong.org](http://www.EPBusinessStrong.org) to learn more about financial assistance and how they can safely stay open.

These simple steps will keep us healthy and help us reduce the risk of infection. While our hospital continue to be available and people are encouraged to address other serious health concerns in a timely manner, by reducing the number of infected individuals, we will be able to reduce the stress on our overall healthcare system and decrease the economic impact. Our love for our families and our communities make us El Paso del Norte Strong.

Most Sincerely,

El Paso UNITED Covid-19 Transition Task Force



Dr. Ogechika Alozie  
CO-Chair



Dr. Hector Ocaranza  
Co-Chair