

**THIRD EXTENSION OF
FIRST AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. 17
BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF EL PASO, TEXAS**

DATE ORDER ISSUED: November 30, 2021

2021 NOV 30 AM 8:38
COUNTY CLERK
EL PASO COUNTY TEXAS

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2021, in response to Governor Abbott’s restrictions on county and government officials, I issued County Order No. 17 which calls on each El Pasoan to save lives and avoid setback by wearing a face covering and maintaining social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2021, the Texas Supreme Court issued Emergency Order No. 38 (“SC-38”), which authorized the chief justice of the court of appeals and the local administrative district judge to adopt minimum standard health protocols in order to resume in-person court-proceedings; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, Judge Linda Chew, local administrative district judge, issued the 2021 COVID-19 Minimum Health Standards Protocols for the El Paso County, Texas Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2021, I issued the First Amendment to Order No. 17 (the “First Amendment”) to recognize and allow compliance with the Minimum Health Standards Protocols adopted by the local administrative judge; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2021, the Texas Supreme Court issued Emergency Order No. 40 (“SC-40”) which authorized the local administrative judge to readopt local plans and minimum standard health protocols; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021, Judge Chew readopted and amended the 2021 COVID-19 Minimum Health Standards Protocols for the El Paso County, Texas Judiciary which continues to require face coverings in all common areas of the court house as well as within courtrooms and wherever jury selection occurs, unless a judge grants permission to remove them; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021, I issued my First Extension of the First Amendment to County Order No. 17 (the “First Extension”) to allow for continued compliance with the Minimum Health Standards Protocols adopted by the local administrative judge; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2021, the Texas Supreme Court issued Emergency Order No. 43 (“SC-43”) which maintained the local administrative judge’s authority to adopt minimum standard health protocols and mandate compliance with the same; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2021, I issued the Second Extension of the First Amendment to County Order No. 17 (the “Second Extension”) to allow for continued compliance with the Minimum Health Standards Protocols adopted by the local administrative judge; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2021, the Texas Supreme Court issued Emergency Order No. 45 (“SC-45”) which once again authorizes the local administrative judge to adopt local plans and minimum standard health protocols; and

WHEREAS, the Second Extension is scheduled to terminate on December 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in the past month, El Paso’s COVID-19 positivity rate has increased from 12 to 14 percent; and

WHEREAS, though the COVID-19 vaccine has made it possible for many individuals to resume pre-pandemic activities, El Paso’s Trauma Service Area I’s COVID-19 hospitalizations as a percentage of capacity is currently the 2nd highest in the state; and

WHEREAS, as winter approaches, El Pasoans are urged to stay ahead of the virus by remaining vigilant, maintaining social distancing, wearing a face covering according to CDC guidelines, and most importantly, availing themselves of full vaccination protection; and

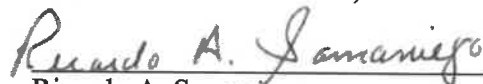
WHEREAS, to allow for continued compliance with the Minimum Health Standards Protocols adopted and amended by the local administrative judge, I hereby issue the Third Extension of the First Amendment to County Order No. 17 (the “Third Extension”).

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, which urges all El Pasoans to continue to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing, shall remain in full force and effect unless superseded by a conflicting local, state or federal law or order.
2. This Third Extension of the First Amendment to Order No. 17 shall incorporate by reference the 2021 COVID-19 Minimum Health Standards Protocols for the El Paso County, Texas Judiciary, as readopted and amended by the local administrative judge, and available at [ElPasoJuryTrialProcedures.pdf \(epcounty.com\)](#).
3. The Third Extension of the First Amendment to Order No. 17 shall remain in effect through February 1, 2022, unless amended, extended or terminated prior to such date.

ORDERED THIS 30th day of November, 2021.

COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS



Ricardo A. Samaniego,
El Paso County Judge