

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

ORDER NO. 2020-04

CITY OF LA JOYA

"Protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community."

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubel Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, continuous spread of the disease presents an imminent threat of widespread illness or loss of life resulting from a global pandemic and other public calamity resulting therefrom, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of La Joya previously declared a local state of disaster pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(a) due to COVID-19 pandemic in the community of La Joya to protect the health, safety and welfare of all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, the County of Hidalgo also extended their Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency until April 30, 2020, and numerous related orders to date; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott proclaimed a statewide state of disaster due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has since issued numerous Executive Orders related to the pandemic, including Executive Order GA-26 governing the reopening of the Texas economy on June 3, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of June 9, 2020, the City of La Joya has experienced 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, infected persons can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms, and widespread and consistent use of face coverings over the nose and mouth when in public is a critical and necessary measure to help slow the spread of the virus while allowing local businesses to continue to reopen and help the City of La Joya economy recover;

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has clarified that his plan to reopen the Texas economy includes maintaining the authority of local government to require businesses to adopt and enforce health policies that include face covering requirements; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to menace the health of La Joya residents and the La Joya economy, and the local Health Authority has advised on the need for increased vigilance by individuals and mandatory health measures from City of La Joya businesses:

NOW THEREFORE, THE MAYOR ALONGSIDE THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA JOYA, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY ORDER, EFFECTIVE AS OF 11:59 P.M. ON JULY 15, 2020, AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2020, THAT IN THE CITY OF LA JOYA:

SECTION 1. All individuals and business establishments are **ORDERED** to practice the social distancing, hygiene, and face covering behaviors set forth in Sections 2 through 5 and **Exhibits A and C**, unless excepted by this Order or otherwise provided by the Governor's Executive Order GA-26 or other executive order in effect (combined being Governor's Order). Further, to the extent this Order does not mandate or directly address a course of action, all individuals and business establishments shall at a minimum comply with and require the health protocols otherwise just recommended in the Governor's Open Texas Checklists, found at: <https://open.texas.gov/>.

Social gatherings shall be avoided or minimized. Vulnerable individuals (those over 65, who are immunocompromised, or who have underlying health conditions putting them at increased risk of harm from COVID-19) shall avoid groups of more than two beyond the members of their single household or residence. Further, socializing by anyone in groups of more than 10 individuals (unless all participants are members of a single household or residence) is **PROHIBITED**, except as expressly permitted by this Order or the Governor's Order. All participants in lawful gatherings or groups, restricted by size or otherwise expressly permitted, are nonetheless subject to the required social

including or limited by any other requirements imposed by the Governor's Order. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's residence.

Nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities must prohibit noncritical assistance visitors or providers from accessing their facilities, as determined through the guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. All non-residents in nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities must wear a fabric face covering as set forth in Section 3 (Face Covering Behaviors). In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of **Exhibit C**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk.

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

If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19 or is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, the entire household is **ORDERED** to isolate and not travel outside of the City of La Joya except to seek medical attention or until cleared by a medical doctor. Before visiting a healthcare provider or seeking emergency medical care, a person must notify the healthcare provider in advance (or the 9-1-1 call taker and first responders in the event of an emergency) if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 such as cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, or if they have had a bona fide exposure to another individual who tested positive or displayed symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

SECTION 2. Social Distancing and Hygiene. All persons shall practice social distancing except when in the presence of only members of one's own household or residence, or when otherwise exempted by this Order. Parents and guardians of children under 10 shall be responsible for maintaining social distance between child members of their household and others' households. For purposes of this Order, and as outlined in the guidelines from the CDC and City of La Joya/ Hidalgo County Health Authority, social distancing means maintaining at least a six-foot distance from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is unavailable, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not into hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands, hugging or kissing.

SECTION 3. Individual Face Covering Behaviors: Because an infected person can transmit the COVID-19 virus to others before showing any symptoms and for other reasons, the covering of a person's nose and mouth is necessary to help slow the spread of the virus. All persons over the age of three must wear some form of covering that fits snugly over their nose and mouth, such as a commercially made or homemade fabric mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief, at all times while outside of their residence, and

especially including but not limited to while inside of, or in line to enter, the common areas of any indoor business establishment or public space, except:

- a. when the person is alone, or in the presence only of other members of the same household or residence, in a separate room or single space, and not in an indoor common area;
- b. when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability; federal, state, or local workplace safety regulations; or other increased safety risk to the person;
- c. when visibility of the mouth is necessary for communication by or with a person who is hearing impaired;
- d. when the person is outdoors and engaging in an activity allowed by the Governor's Order while alone, or with only members of the same household or residence, or while maintaining a consistent separation of six feet or more from others;
- e. when the person is at a restaurant or bar for the purpose of eating or drinking and is otherwise compliant with the requirements of this Order; or
- f. when temporary removal of the face covering is required to receive a service involving the area of the nose or mouth authorized by this Order or the Governor's Order.

Parents and guardians of children under 16 years of age are responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.

All non-residents in nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities shall wear a fabric face covering, except as otherwise required by an order issued by the Health Authority. In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of **Exhibit A**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk.

See **Exhibit C** for further direction and guidance on Face Covering Behaviors.

SECTION 4. Face Coverings at City Facilities. Individuals ages four (4) and older must wear face coverings at all times (subject only to the exceptions set forth in Section 3) while present on or in City property or facilities, unless expressly exempted by a city policy applicable to the premises or facility.

SECTION 5. Mandatory Face Covering Policies for Business Establishments (both Publicly Accessible and Accessible Only to Employees). All businesses (including not-for-profit entities) and commercial entities (including without limitation multi-family residential, office common areas, and individual office spaces), and the operators of any venues or events open to the public, are **ORDERED** to implement and maintain in force and effect during the term of this Order a health and safety policy or plan related to preventing transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

The health and safety policy or plan must, at a minimum, require that all employees, customers, and visitors wear face coverings over their nose and mouth (subject only to the exceptions set forth in Section 3) while in any part of the business's or venue's premises or facility, and must require of and enforce this health and safety policy or plan as to all who enter upon or into the premises or facility.

The health and safety policy or plan required by this Section may also include the implementation of other mitigating measures designed to control and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 such as temperature checks or health screenings as reasonable and appropriate. All business establishments and venues subject to this Order must post conspicuous signage displaying the requirements of the health and safety policy or plan required by this Order at or near each entrance (on each entry door if feasible) to the premises in a manner sufficient to provide clear notice to employees, customers, and visitors at least of the face covering requirement. A sample health and safety policy and signage that is minimally compliant with this Section is attached as **Exhibit B & C**.

Business employers shall require all employees to comply with the Face Covering Behaviors in this Section while present on the business premises or conducting the employer's business outside the employee's residence. See **Exhibit C** for further direction and guidance on Face Covering Behaviors.

SECTION 6. Residential and Commercial Construction. All Residential and Commercial construction shall cease operations at 11:59 p.m. on July 15, 2020. The Site Manager or person in charge of the construction must submit a WORK SAFE PLAN to the City of La Joya acknowledging the Construction Requirements in **Exhibit D**. Plans may be submitted by email to: worksafeplan@cityoflajoya.com. Upon approval of the WORK SAFE PLAN construction may commence. In addition, the WORK SAFE PLAN CERTIFICATE must be prominently displayed in a visible location at the construction site.

SECTION 7. Reopened Businesses. While the City of La Joya is declared to be in a Readiness Level 1 Alert, all business establishments reopened by the Governor's Orders (including but not limited to GA-23, GA-26, GA-28 and/or GA-29) are strongly encouraged to operate at a capacity less than otherwise permitted to make it more feasible for customers and staff to maintain proper social distancing within their establishment, and to provide services remotely or in a manner maximizing social distancing (e.g., curb-side pickup, delivery, etc.) as much as possible. Despite the issuance of the Governor's Order, local conditions in Hidalgo County continue to exhibit an alarming upward trend of COVID-19 virus transmission and hospitalizations and businesses are encouraged to do everything they can, beyond the requirements of the Governor's Order, to require social distancing and require face covering behaviors.

SECTION 8. Retail, Restaurant Dine-In and Reopened Service Logs and Privacy Protection. To assist in both the statewide and local contact tracing programs, all retail, restaurants and bars allowing indoor service and all reopened services are encouraged

or sit-down customers and employees including the dates and times they were present in the business and the location they occupied for more than a passing moment. Voluntary maintaining of such a log may obviate the need for the Hidalgo County Public Health normal protocol otherwise to publicly release, without limitation and in its discretion, the location where people with confirmed infections have been, with relevant dates and timeframes, to otherwise trace contacts. To protect the privacy of customers, the logs shall be maintained only for a one-month period and shall be the property of the business, not the city or the county. The log may be used only by public health authorities if needed for contact tracing. The logs shall not be part of a database and shall not be used for law enforcement purposes.

SECTION 9. Criminal Offense. A violation of the requirements in Sections 3 or 4, or of the Governor's Orders by an individual is subject to a verbal or written reprimand for a first-time violation. A 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.

A violation of any other section of this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, but not by confinement, each day or a portion of each day during which the violation occurs or continues constitutes a separate offense. A criminal violation of this Order may be enforced by the filing of a probable cause affidavit alleging the violation with the appropriate court or by issuing a citation to the person violating that contains written notice of the time and place the person must appear before a magistrate of this state the name and address of the person charged and the offense charged.

Enforcement of this Order is substantially reliant on self-regulation and a community commitment to public health and safety under the threat of COVID-19. If there is not widespread compliance with this Order the City will increase enforcement efforts, as allowed by law.

SECTION 10. Savings Clause. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

SECTION 11. Public Notice. The City of La Joya will post this Order on the website, Facebook page. In addition, the owner manager or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

SECTION 12. PREVIOUS ORDERS. This Order shall be in addition to all Orders issued by the City, the County of Hidalgo, Governor of Texas, and President of the United States.

SECTION 13. Exhibits. This Order incorporates by reference the following:

Exhibit A: Requirements by the City of La Joya


Exhibit B: Sample Business Health and Safety Policy and Signage

Exhibit C: Face Covering Behaviors

Exhibit D: Construction Requirements

SECTION 14. This order supersedes previous orders issued by the City of La Joya.

Signed and entered this 15th day of July, 2020.


MAYOR ISIDRO CASANOVA

CITY SEAL:



ATTESTED:


City Secretary Julianita Sabala

Exhibit A

Requirements Individuals, Families and Businesses

- I. **Individuals** All individuals shall comply with the Governor's Minimum Standard Health Protocols, checklist for all individuals, found at: <https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Individuals.pdf>

A. COVID-19 Positive Individuals. Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and Untested Individuals with cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea shall:

- i. Be permitted to do the following while wearing a mask or fabric face covering:
 - a. Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, they shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that they have tested positive for COVID-19, or been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever.
 - b. Walk or exercise alone in the immediate vicinity of their residence.
 - c. Seek testing for COVID-19.
- ii. Practice Social Distancing and Hygiene within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- iii. Notify Hidalgo County Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom).
- iv. Notify Hidalgo County Public Health if a member of their household is over the age of 65 and/or if they have underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC of increasing the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- v. Remain in home quarantine for at least 14 days following the

onset of their illness and at least three days (72 hours) after the conclusion of their illness (resolution of fever without medications and improvement in cough and shortness of breath), whichever is longer.

B. Household Members of COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, or Untested Individuals with cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea shall:

- i. Be permitted to do the following while wearing a mask or fabric face covering:
 1. Seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, they shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to visiting other healthcare providers that they have been exposed to individuals who have tested positive, are suspected positive for COVID-19 or untested individuals with cough and/or fever.
 2. Walk or exercise alone in the immediate vicinity of their residence.
- ii. Practice Social Distancing and Hygiene within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- iii. Notify Hidalgo County Public Health if the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room and bathroom).
- iv. Notify Hidalgo County Public Health or your Primary Care Provider if they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as defined by the CDC.
- v. Remain in isolation/quarantine for at least 14 days following the last exposure to individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

C. Individuals should refrain from reporting to work when falling within any of the following criteria:

- i. Has signs or symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, such as cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea;
- ii. Has a fever greater than 99.9°F;

iii. In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and did not have the appropriate personal protective equipment designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness; or

iv. Has traveled to an area the World Health Organization or CDC considers a "Hotspot" outside their home County.

If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, or is awaiting results of a COVID-19 test, and a member of the household is an employee of a government service or CISA industry, an exception may be made by Hidalgo County Public Health allowing that member of the household to voluntarily return to work after finding the risk of reduced essential services is greater than the risk of infection.

D. Vulnerable Populations

i. Vulnerable populations include people who:

a. Are 65 years old and older; or

b. Have certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and weakened immune systems.

ii. Vulnerable individuals shall:

a. Avoid group gatherings unless it is essential.

b. Avoid people who are sick.

c. Wear a mask or fabric face covering at all times when in public, and

d. Comply with the Governor's Special Guidance for Texans Over 65 found at:

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Special-Guidance-For-Texans-Over-65.pdf>

E. Individual Gatherings

i. All social indoor or outdoor gatherings outside of a single household or dwelling should be avoided or minimized. Gatherings of more than 10 persons (unless all participants are members of a single household or residence) are prohibited, except as expressly permitted by this Order or

the Governor's Order

- ii. Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- iii. For household and other gatherings permitted by the Order:
 - a. Have hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available;
 - b. Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails; and
 - c. Find ways to create physical space (minimum of six (6) feet distance between people) to minimize close contact as much as possible.

F. Schools in the City of La Joya.

Effective per this Order and continuing until modified, rescinded, or superseded, the City of La Joya imposes the following control measures on all public and private schools offering instruction to students in any and all grades pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (12) as follows:

- (1) All Public and Private School Systems in the City of La Joya, Texas offering instructions to students in any and all grades, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (12) shall **NOT** re-open for on-campus instruction at schools until after **September 27, 2020**. Instruction may be provided through virtual, remote, or distance learning only.
- (2) Administrators, teachers, and operations staff may conduct or facilitate the remote learning process, or other operations, while on-campus provided applicable CDC guidelines including social distancing and facial coverings are followed at all times.
- (3) All school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs, exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, shall not take place until school systems resume on-campus instruction.
- (4) By or before the two weeks prior to school system opening for on-campus instruction, each school system shall develop a plan for re-opening on-campus instruction and activities and make such plan available for parents and the general public.

II. **Businesses** shall operate only to the extent permitted by order of the Texas Governor. **Businesses** and services permitted to operate by the Governor's Order shall comply with the following:

- A. To prevent stigma and discrimination in the workplace, employers shall only adhere to the recommendations described in this Order to determine risk of COVID-19. Employers should contact their own human resources advisors and shall not make determinations of risk based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, familial status, disability, marital status, student status, creed, or national origin. To the extent possible, employers should maintain confidentiality of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- B. Employers shall only allow persons in and around their premises that are: (1) essential employees not subject to any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit, (2) customers or members of the public practicing Social Distancing and Hygiene and Face Covering behaviors as set forth in Sections 2, 3, and 5 (Mandatory Health Plans) of this Order, and (3) persons with legal authority to enter such as law enforcement.
- C. Prior to allowing employees into its facility, employers shall ask all employees if they meet any of the criteria in Section I of this Exhibit and shall direct employees to return home or other appropriate shelter and services if the employee is exhibiting symptoms and presenting a threat of infecting others. Employers shall immediately separate an employee who becomes sick or demonstrates a temperature greater than 99.9°F while at work from other employees and send that employee home or to other appropriate shelter and services.
- D. Human resources departments shall create alternate work plans to help employees remain productive while keeping the workforce safe and healthy.
- E. Employers are strongly encouraged to require employees (either those exhibiting symptoms or all employees) to undergo a COVID-19 symptom check and non-invasive temperature readings prior to entering a worksite; however, employers are not mandated to take the temperature of employees prior to entrance to its worksite. If the employer does take employees' temperatures and/or has first-hand knowledge that the employee's temperature exceeds 99.9°F, then the employer shall prohibit the employee from entering the facility or property.
- F. Employers shall create and implement an infectious disease response plan.
- G. Employers shall comply with the Governor's Minimum Standard Health Protocols, checklist for employers, found at:
<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Employers.pdf>
- H. Where appropriate employers shall:
- i. Suspend non-essential employee travel;
 - ii. Prohibit employees working within six (6) feet of one another unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services;
 - iii. Minimize or cancel in-person meetings and conferences including canceling, postponing or moving to on-line formats for all indoor or

outdoor gatherings of any number of people.

iv. Require employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.

v. Alter, stagger or otherwise schedule or separate employees or teams of employees so not all employees are present at one time but are present at alternative days and times, unless necessary to provide continuity of essential services.

vi. Limit or restrict the number of customers or visitors permitted in a workplace at one time.

vii. Ensure that individuals (employees and clients) queuing inside and outside of the business or workplace can maintain six (6) feet of separation.

viii. Designate special separate shopping times for high-risk clients as designated by the CDC.

ix. Increase the use and capability of on-line, drive-thru, curbside, or delivery services.

x. Provide hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues.

xi. Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like countertops, door knobs, and handrails with CDC recommended surface cleaners for COVID-19.

xii. Require and allow employees to practice the Face Covering Behaviors as set forth in Section 3 and **Exhibit C** of this Order.

Exhibit B

SAMPLE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SIGNAGE [ATTACHED]

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

POLICY. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, it is the policy of this business, as required by City and County Orders, to require the following:

1. **FACE COVERING REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ENTER PREMISES.** All persons ages ten (10) and older, including employees, customers, visitors, invitees, and contractors ("Patrons"), who enter this business **MUST** wear a face covering over their nose and mouth, such as a commercially made or homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. This requirement does not apply if covering the nose or mouth poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk to the Patron, such as anyone having trouble breathing due to a medical condition, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
2. **SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS.** Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals should maintain six (6) feet of social distancing from others outside their own household whenever possible.
 - a. Employees should not work within six (6) feet of one another, except to the extent necessary to provide services.
 - b. Patrons should maintain six (6) feet of separation from others outside their own household to the extent feasible when inside these premises and must do so while queuing or waiting.
3. **VIOLATIONS.** Patrons who do not wear a face covering will be asked to leave the premises and may not be provided goods or services until the face covering requirements of this policy and City and County Orders are followed.
4. **NOTICE AND SIGNAGE.** Notice of this Health and Safety Policy will be posted in a conspicuous location on these premises.

Exhibit C

Face Covering Behaviors

A significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms. Because an infected person can transmit the virus to others before showing any symptoms, the covering of a person's nose and mouth when outside their home or residence is necessary to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is consistent with the findings of the CDC.

Unless you already have your own personal used masks that cannot be donated, the fabric face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, which are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders. Staying home is the best way to help reduce the spread of the virus, but if an individual must leave their place of residence, wearing a fabric face covering shall be used as outlined in this Exhibit and this Order. **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.**

The public in general and employers and employees shall adhere to the following:

- a. All individuals ages ten (10) and older shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a commercially made or homemade mask, scarf, bandana or handkerchief, when:
 1. entering, in line to enter, or inside any building open to the public,
 2. when using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares,
 3. when pumping gas, and
 4. outside and six feet of social distancing cannot be consistently maintained between the person and individuals outside of their household.
- b. This section shall not apply to persons that are:
 1. riding in a personal vehicle,
 2. alone in a separate single space, and not in an indoor common area,
 3. in the presence only of other members of their household or

residence,

4. at a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance, or

5. at a restaurant or bar for the purpose of eating or drinking and is otherwise compliant with the requirements of this Order.

Parents and Guardians of children under 16 shall be responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.

- c. All non-residents in nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities shall wear a fabric face covering as provided for in this Exhibit and set forth in Section 3 of this Order (Face Covering Behaviors), except as otherwise required by an order issued by the Health Authority. In addition, residents in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases shall follow requirements of **Exhibit A**, except when doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety or security risk.
- d. All COVID-19 Positive Individuals, Suspected Positives, those currently being tested, and untested individuals with cough, fever, sore throat, chills, muscle aches, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, vomiting, and/or diarrhea and household members of same category of individuals shall not leave their residence without a mask or cloth face covering to prevent the spread to others.
- e. All individuals working for a business shall wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever in public and whenever performing job duties in the presence of others.
- f. Unless you already have your own personal use masks that cannot be donated, medical grade (N95) and surgical masks should be reserved and used only by medical professionals and first responders
- g. The fabric face covering should:
 - 1. fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
 - 2. be secured with ties or ear loops,
 - 3. include multiple layers of fabric,
 - 4. allow for breathing without restriction, and
 - 5. be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

h. Employers shall require and allow employees to practice Face Covering Behaviors as set forth in Section 3 and this **Exhibit C**.

i. Even with the use of appropriate face coverings, individuals shall maintain six feet of social distancing whenever possible.

j. Individuals should avoid touching their face and should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

EXHIBIT D

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

1. The person in charge of the overall site ("Site Manager") shall ensure the following requirements are implemented and maintained at the work site. For sites not large enough by virtue of physical size or number of workers, or which do not have a general contractor, the responsibilities of a Site Manager in this document are also conferred on each subcontractor on a site.

a. Ensure workers practice the Social Distancing and Face Covering Behaviors as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and **Exhibits A** and **C** of this Order during non-construction activities and, to the greatest extent possible, during construction activities, with careful attention paid to "choke points" and "high-risk areas" where workers are at greater risk to closely gather, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, and break areas;

1. Follow healthy work practices in **Exhibit A**;

2. Ensure all workers wear a fabric face covering, consistent with Section 3 and **Exhibit C**;

3. For all construction sites within the City, except as noted, Site Manager shall, in addition to guidelines issued by the CDC:

i. Institute staggered shifts for sites with more than 10 active workers and post at these sites, in languages understood by all persons working there, a notice showing the sizes and types of shift crews working there, and directions on how the Site Manager is limiting crew sizes and rotating shifts.

ii. Every day before the commencement of work, for and understood by each worker, conduct a jobsite pre-screening of the general health of each worker, provide a briefing reiterating the COVID-19 safety requirements, and check for personal protective equipment.

iii. Ensure that the site has at least one handwashing station with soap or hand sanitizer and one portable restroom stocked with hand soap and/or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for every 15 workers, and the hand washing station and restroom(s) must be spaced six feet apart or more from each other.

iv. Mandate hand washing of at least twenty seconds for workers as follows:

- (a) Before workers begin work;
 - (b) After workers remove gloves;
 - (c) Before and after the use of shared items such as tools, electronic devices or multi-user devices;
 - (d) Before and after any meal or restroom breaks; and
 - (e) After a worker's shift or work time ends.
 - v. Prohibit the use of community water coolers and provide individual water bottles or instruct workers to bring their own.
 - vi. Ensure that shared tools are disinfected between users, and that common areas (lunch and break areas, toolbox talk areas, large equipment, electronic devices etc.) and collective touch points (doorknobs, counters, keyboards, etc.) are cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day.
 - vii. Post in a conspicuous place or places on a site where notices to employees are customarily posted, once such signage is made available by the City, a sign in English and Spanish providing the Social Distancing and Hygiene and Face Covering Behaviors as set forth in Sections 2 and 3 and **Exhibits A and C** of this Order, the Requirements and Recommendations for Employees in **Exhibit A** of this Order, and information for workers to submit complaints of any violations.
 - viii. Provide single use disposable paper towels and no-touch trash receptacles.
 - ix. Keep toilets clean, sanitary and operational at all times and ensure proper disposal of waste from these facilities.
 - x. Designate a COVID-19 Safety Monitor who has the authority to enforce these rules and shall be on-site at all times. The contact information for the Safety Monitor must be made available to the City. The Safety Monitor may also be the Site Manager and shall advise the City if that is the case when providing their contact information.
- b. If a worker at a construction site is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, the Site Manager shall immediately send the worker home, notify Hidalgo Public Health, and follow all directions from : Public Health concerning that worker and workers that may have come in contact with the infected worker.
 - c. The Site Manager shall ensure that every worker who enters a jobsite has signed in and shall keep a list of and contact information for every worker that enters the jobsite every day for the purpose of identifying and notifying workers if they have shared a jobsite with someone who has been confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - d. All Construction Industry employers are encouraged to observe the following

employment practices for the health of the workers, the health of the community generally, and for the benefit of the overall economy of the City:

- (1) Take no adverse action against a worker who declines to work at a construction site if the worker believes in good faith that the site presents an imminent health risk of the worker or others due to COVID-19.
 - (2) Take no adverse action against a worker who has been quarantined, or advised to self - quarantine, due to possible exposure to COVID-19.
- e. Continuing review of health conditions. The City will continue to monitor closely the health condition of the community and the statistical models for the likely spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community on an ongoing basis. If this evidence indicates that the City's ability to provide adequate care for those with serious cases of COVID-19 is significantly compromised, additional emergency orders or guidance may be issued. All persons in the construction industry should be aware of this risk and are strongly encouraged to take all feasible steps to eliminate person-to-person contact at construction sites, and to practice the City's Social Distancing and Hygiene and Face Covering Behaviors at all times.