



MAYOR
Dee Margo

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

**NEWS
RELEASE**

04 / 23 / 2020

COVID-19 Update

Emergency Directives Amended, Aimed at Reducing Spread of COVID-19

EL PASO, Texas — The City of El Paso has amended the City's emergency directive regarding the businesses and civilian directives aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 following the surge of the number of positive cases.

As of today, the Department of Public Health (DPH) Paso is reporting **29** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county's total number to **674**, the number of deaths remains at **ten (10)**. Positive cases in El Paso County include 350 females and 324 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are now 33 patients who are hospitalized, and 21 of those hospitalized are currently in ICU.

The City and County officials are amending the Emergency Directive that will go into effect at 11:59 p.m. tonight, April 23, and will remain in effect until further notice. The City and County of El Paso will incrementally re-open the economy with guidance from healthcare and business leaders.

The amended directive follows the States order for re-opening the economy to include:

Face Coverings

- All individuals over the age of two (2), are to wear some form of face covering over their nose and mouth, while outside of their home or residence. A face covering may include face masks, cloth fabric coverings that fit snugly but comfortable against the side of the face and is secured with ties or ear loops, bandanas, scarves and neck gaiters.
- Parents and guardians of children over the age of two (2) and under the age of ten (10) shall be responsible for appropriately masking children when outside their residence.
- A face covering is not required on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or exercising outdoors and not within 6 feet of any other individual not from the same household.
- All non-residents in nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities and long-term care facilities shall wear a fabric face covering.
- 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.

Prohibited Activities

- All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside or inside a single household or dwelling unit are prohibited.

—more—



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication** Among All Members of the Community



MAYOR
Dee Margo

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Annello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

- Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities are to minimize the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible and prohibit non-critical assistance visitors or providers, as determined through the guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- Any public or private gatherings at any recreational area, park, pool or recreational facility is prohibited.
 - This includes hike and bike trails, whether formally recognized by the City or not; including, but not limited to any golfing in public or private courses; any gathering in school recreation areas, tennis clubs, and any other private recreational club; the area near Socorro Independent School District Student Activities Complex ("SAC") located near 1300 Joe Battle Boulevard; all to include the use of any type of recreational vehicle at any outdoor area.
- Residents can walk and run along established walking paths that exist adjacent to streets, parks or within parks; but are prohibited from using trails and trailheads
- Franklin Mountains State Park shall remain closed until further notice.

Retail-to-Go: Guidance for Employers, Employees and Customers

- **Requirements**
 - All employees must be trained on environmental cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - All employees must be screened before coming into the business for new or worsening cough; shortness of breath; sore throat; loss of taste or smell; feeling feverish or measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit; or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID19. Any employee who meets any of these criteria should be sent home
 - Upon entering the business, employees must wash or sanitize hands
 - All employees must wear face coverings
 - Employees must maintain at least 6 feet separation from one another

How to Purchase Goods from Re-Opened Retail Businesses

- Customers may purchase items from retail location for pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep but may not enter the premises.
- **Retail to go guidelines:**
 - All payments should be done over the phone or internet if possible and contact should be minimized if remote payment is not available
 - Purchased items should be delivered by the employee to the backseat or trunk of the customer's vehicle whenever possible to minimize physical contact with the customer
 - Employees must wash or sanitize their hands after each interaction with a customer, and whenever possible. Must disinfect any item that came into contact with the customer

—more—





MAYOR
Dee Margo

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

- **Retail delivery to customer's doorstep:**
 - All payments should be done over the phone or internet if possible, and contact would be minimized if remote payment is not available
 - Purchased items should be delivered by an employee or third-party carrier and delivered to the customer's doorstep. The employee or third-party carrier may not enter the customer's house or business
- **Retail delivery by mail:**
 - All payments must be done over the phone or internet
 - Purchased items should be delivered by mail without customer contact
- The customer should wash or sanitize their hands after the transaction.

The directive still allows the public to visit grocery stores, gas stations, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

The updated order with additional changes is available at www.EPStrong.org under "Health Orders." Residents are encouraged to report non-compliance by calling 3-1-1.

The 21-COVID hotline is operational from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For referral to services, contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6). For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

###



Media Contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
915.212.1040
915.781.4386