



Department of Public Health

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CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

SAFE 2020 HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDANCE

The El Paso region has been greatly affected by the large surge of COVID-19 cases stressing our healthcare resources to its maximum capacity. With the help of state and federal resources, we have been able to care for our residents, however, we all need to take responsibility to prevent infection within ourselves and our loved ones.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is issuing the following guidance to inform and provide our community with safer ways to do holiday shopping, thereby reducing the risk of infection and keeping our community safe and healthy.

In-person shopping is considered a high-risk activity, particularly if done in crowded stores or places where many people gather. Also, patrons are at higher risk of infection when shopping at indoor establishments and particularly during times of very high community spread of COVID-19.

These are DPH recommendations for this year's safer holiday season shopping:

For Residents:

- Buy online as much as you can within the comfort of your home
- Use curbside pickup or home delivery when possible
- Avoid shopping during peak hours
- Only one person per household should be assigned to do holiday shopping if going in-person
- Do not take people considered at-risk of complications to do in-person shopping
- Keep at-risk loved ones at home and designate only one person to do in-person shopping and essential activities for them
- Wear face coverings always, properly covering nose, mouth and chin when performing outdoor activities. A face shield is not a substitute for the face covering but could be used in addition to the face covering
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals not within your own household
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or bring hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol base
- Do not touch your face, to include nose, mouth, or eyes
- Use touchless payment systems as much as possible to avoid handling cash or other currency
- Do not gather outside of stores before opening hours

Angela Mora – Public Health Director

Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905

O: (915) 212-6502 | <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health>



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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For Businesses:

- Please follow the all Minimum Standard Health Protocol for employers published by the State of Texas ([Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas | Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#))
- Perform health screening check on all employees and contractors at the beginning of their shifts and do not allow employees/contractors to begin their shift if showing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive and have not met the criteria for release of isolation, or are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- Assign employees to monitor proper 6-foot physical distancing between customers and to clean and disinfect frequently merchandise and high touch areas.
- Monitor access to stores to prevent exceeding established maximum capacity
- Prevent crowding at the entrance of stores by placing indicators for 6-foot distancing on the floor and monitoring compliance.
- Utilize touchless forms of payment as much as possible.
- Make sanitizer easily available to staff
- Monitor compliance of face coverings on clients inside of stores, ensuring they are properly wearing the face mask covering nose, mouth, and chin.
- Promote on-line shopping and bigger incentives if shopping on-line and use curbside pickup or home delivery.
- Limit hours of operation as much as possible, particularly in the evenings.

The health and well-being of our community is our top priority and at DPH we would like for all to be safe by practicing prevention and by celebrating this holiday season in many virtual ways. We would like to keep families and all our community united and healthy to celebrate together for many years to come.

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