

COUNTY JUDGE
JACQUES L. BLANCHETTE

March 28, 2020

To: All Persons in Tyler County,

I am ordering all persons in Tyler County to STAY at their own home!

Residents of other counties who left their primary residence and are at their second home, camp, weekend place or shared property in Tyler County must follow this Executive Order for the duration of your presence here.

All persons in Tyler County are permitted to perform essential needs/services or have such needs/services performed for them.

All persons in Tyler County are encouraged not to socialize, party or gather together with others during the time of this Order. This is NOT the time to host or participate in "COVID-19 parties". This is a time for each person to protect themselves from the exposure risks of this deadly virus.

I take NO PLEASURE in placing this restrictive Order into effect. However, I hold the duty and responsibility to protect the citizens of this county when there is a clear and present danger to their health or well-being.

Should citizens or persons currently present in this county be found violating this Order, they may be punished with fines up to \$1,000.00 and/or 180 days in jail for each offense.

As soon as it is safe, by my decision, this Order will be lifted. I will do so when the threat of harm or danger or loss of life has passed.

I wish to express my appreciation to each of you for your understanding and compliance with this Order. Together we will get through this.

Respectfully,

JLB/bb

NO. _____ TIME 4:45pm



Second Executive Order

MAR 28 2020

JACQUES L. BLANCHETTE, JUDGE
TYLER COUNTY, TEXAS
By Jacques L. Blanchette



JB-02

STAY HOME (Stay at Your Own Home)

I, Jacques L. Blanchette, duly elected Judge of Tyler County, based on most recent information received from Emergency Management Offices and Public Health Authorities issue this **“STAY HOME” ORDER** REGARDING THE OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES THROUGHOUT TYLER COUNTY, TEXAS, INCLUDING MUNICIPALITIES:

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus COVID-19 disease has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus and has been declared by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission and that the virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 persons, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to the authority granted me by Texas Government Code, Chapter 418, issued a declaration of **“Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency”** certifying a public safety hazard exists and extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the life, health and safety of citizens of Tyler County in the state of Texas, and such Declaration remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 418.108(d) and (g), issued an Amended Emergency Order to address the COVID-19 situation; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 418.108(d) and (g), issued an Executive Order which encompasses all areas inside the boundaries of Tyler County, including the incorporated municipalities of Woodville, Colmesneil, Chester and Ivanhoe, Texas; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, on March 28, 2020, I, Jacques L. Blanchette, County Judge of Tyler County, Texas, pursuant to the authority vested by Texas Government Code Chapter 418, hereby issue this “**STAY HOME**” **ORDER** effective 11:59 p.m. on March 28, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, subject to amendment, extension, modification or cancellation thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC.

Order No. 1 All individuals currently living within Tyler County are ordered to stay at their place of residence except for **Essential Activities** as defined by this order. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, as defined in this order. For purposes of this Order, residences include homes, hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

All businesses operating within Tyler County, **except Essential Businesses** as defined in this Order, shall cease all activities at facilities located within the County. For clarity, businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with social distancing guidelines for their customers and employees. Financial institutions may continue to provide services with drive-through operations.

Essential Businesses as described in this Order may remain open. However, these infection control precautions apply to all Essential Businesses: (1) practice social distancing by requiring patrons, visitors, and employees to be separated by six (6) feet, to the extent feasible; (2) provide access to hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol; (3) post a sign in a conspicuous place at the public entrance to the venue instructing members of the public not to enter if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever or cough; and (4) adhere to other general communicable disease control recommendations by public health authorities.

In accordance with the Guidelines from President Trump, Governor Abbott and the CDC, every person in Tyler County, Texas shall limit gatherings to groups of no more than 10 persons. This Order shall include gatherings in public facilities, except as allowed in this Order, and private residences throughout the county. Citizens shall practice social distancing and good hand hygiene. **It is highly recommended that all persons within**

the boundaries of Tyler County not gather with persons outside their own household unit.

Nothing in this Order affects orders or agreements regarding child-related visitation or custody arrangements.

Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, public playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19 and, therefore shall be closed.

- Order No. 2** Any event sponsored or permitted by Tyler County shall cease.
- Order No. 3** In accordance with Guidelines from the President and the CDC, all restaurant dining rooms, bars, social clubs, and nightclubs shall close. Drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options are allowed and encouraged throughout the duration of this Order, provided food orders are placed by telephone, email, or online as appropriate. Customers shall not enter restaurants to place “to go” orders. Food shall not be consumed on the premises of such establishments. Owners and managers shall ensure that all cooks and food handlers are screened (per CDC guidelines) for illness prior to preparing food for sale.
- Order No. 4** All gyms, fitness clubs, martial arts and dance studios, tattoo shops, game rooms, reflexology services, and massage therapy facilities shall close effective immediately.
- Order No. 5** All hair salons, beauty salons, barber shops, day spas, tanning salons, and facial salons shall remain closed until further notice. All nail salons shall remain closed until further notice. All bingo halls and flea markets shall close and remain closed until further notice.
- Order No. 6** All door-to-door sales shall cease immediately. Residents who encounter a salesperson at their door should simply not answer the door.
- Order No. 7** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance or end-of-life visitation.
- Order No. 8** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President, Governor and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close. School districts will suspend on-site academic instruction for the period of this Order, and will implement home-based flexible education programs as determined by each District. This Order will not prohibit the preparation and distribution of meals and instructional material packets, as appropriate, within County boundaries, nor prohibit the essential administrative and maintenance operations of the District.
- While there may be more than 10 persons within the larger school building, school districts shall comply with the Order that no more than 10 persons gather within any self-contained space, and all persons will comply with social distancing guidelines. Citizens should contact their local school district for more information.
- Order No. 9** Any building which the public has access to is hereby restricted from being occupied by more than 20% of the Maximum Occupancy requirements as set forth by the International Building Code (IBC). Maximum Occupancy signs shall be displayed to show this reduced

number in these places. Persons must adhere to social distancing guidelines by keeping a minimum of 6 feet separation from each other.

Grocery stores and convenience stores are encouraged to remain open but citizens are urged to use delivery or curbside services to the greatest extent possible.

Unless an individual is handicapped and requires assistance, or is a parent of a child for whom there is no alternative care, **only one member** of a household shall enter any retail/wholesale establishments: grocery stores, any store within a strip center, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, and farmers' markets.

Order No. 10 A twenty-four (24) hour curfew shall be in place throughout Tyler County for all individuals who are under the age of 18. This curfew does not apply if the individual under the age of 18 is accompanied by school personnel, a parent, or a guardian, or is travelling to and from their place of employment

Order No. 11 Faith leaders are strongly encouraged to minister and counsel in individual settings, so long as social distancing is followed. Religious and worship services should only be provided by video and teleconference, or drive-up services where individuals do not exit their vehicles. Religious institutions shall limit in-person staff to those necessary for preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow social distancing guidelines.

Order No. 12 If any person in a household tests positive for coronavirus, that person, as well as all household members are ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school or any other location.

In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, any law enforcement agency based in Tyler County is hereby authorized to enforce this order and the failure to comply with the Order is an offense under this Order and is punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

- Stay home except for essential activities described in this Order.
- Avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Always practice good hygiene by washing your hands frequently; avoid touching your face; sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow; disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as often as possible.
- Work from home whenever possible.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following **Essential Activities**:

- 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 healthcare professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work from home).

- To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supplies, and any other household consumer products, supplies needed to work from home, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences).
- To engage in outdoor activity, provided individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (e.g., walking, biking, hiking, running, or fishing) in groups of no more than 10 persons.
- To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Order.
- To care for a family member or pet or livestock in the person's or another household.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

For purposes of this Order, **Essential Businesses** include:

- **Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), (including public works construction, residential and commercial construction and repair, airport operations, banking and lending institutions, estate and title companies auto dealerships, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, chemical products, roads and highways, public transportation, port operations, timber and logging industry, funeral homes and crematoriums, solid waste collection and removal, private and commercial mail and parcel delivery services, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, professional information services, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, defense and national security-related operations, essential manufacturing operations) provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet to the extent possible. Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activities shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines.

Visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security CISA website for more information on critical infrastructure sectors at: <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19> .

- **Essential Government Functions.** All services provided by local governments and municipalities needed to ensure the continuing operation to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. Further, nothing in this order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Government Functions." All Essential Government Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements of six feet, to the extent possible and governmental offices may restrict access to a limited number of persons at any time and may require health screening (in compliance with guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control) prior to allowing entry.
- **Essential Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare. Healthcare

operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities. Healthcare operations do not include elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures as determined health care providers.

- **Essential Retail.** Food producers and service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, furniture suppliers, big box stores, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers' markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, ranching, fishing, and livestock. Food production, including the production of canned goods, bottled beverages and other grocery items. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery, drive-thru or carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. The restriction of delivery or carry-out does not apply to cafes and restaurants located within hospital and medical facilities. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers. Gas stations, auto supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
- **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.** Businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide food, shelter, and social services, home care services, services who provide food to students, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.
- **Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.** Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, yard and maintenance crews, housekeepers, janitorial staff, pool cleaners and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, insurances services, and "real estate services" when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities. Businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with support or utilities needed to operate. Caregivers and helpers who provide services to seniors and disabled individuals.
- **News Media.** Newspapers, newspaper delivery, television, radio, and other media services.
- **Childcare and Adult Care Services.** Childcare and adult care facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.
- **Infrastructure, Development, Operation and Construction.** For example, public works construction, construction of housing; construction including commercial, manufacturing, airport operations and aircraft manufacturing, maintenance or repair, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, web-based services)
- **Transportation.** Businesses related to the operation, maintenance, construction, and manufactures, and manufacture of transportation services. For example, (a) vehicle manufacturers, automotive

suppliers and parts departments, car dealerships, parts distributors, maintenance and repair facilities; (b) businesses supporting airport operation; (c) street and highway maintenance and construction; (d) gas stations and other fuel distribution businesses.

- **Educational Institutions.** Educational institutions – including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities – for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible (See Order #8 above).

WHEREAS, this state of disaster requires that certain emergency measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management;

It is therefore ordered that the following regulations shall take effect immediately upon execution of this Order and shall remain in effect until the state of disaster is terminated or this Order may be amended:

PRICE CONTROLS

A person shall not sell any of the following goods or services for more than a reasonable price that is directly related to any increase in actual cost:

- a) groceries, beverages, toilet articles, ice, cleaning supplies;
- b) construction and building materials and supplies, earthmoving equipment and machinery;
- c) electrical and gas generating and transmission equipment, parts and accessories;
- d) charcoal briquettes, matches, candles, lamp illumination and heat unit carbides, dry batteries, light bulbs, flashlights, and hand lanterns;
- e) hand tools (manual and power), hardware and household supplies, and equipment rental;
- f) automotive parts, supplies and accessories;
- g) plumbing and electrical tools and supplies;
- h) apartment, duplex, multi-family dwelling, rooming house, hotel and motel rental;
- i) gasoline, diesel oil, motor oil, kerosene, grease, and automotive lubricants;
- j) restaurant, cafeteria and boarding house meals;
- k) services of roofing and building contractors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, tree surgeons, and automobile wrecker companies;
- l) medicine, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and supplies;
- m) blankets, quilts, bedspreads, bed liners, mattresses, bedsprings, bedsheets, bedsteads, towels and toilet paper; and
- n) furniture and clothing.

Citizens who suspect any business or person of price gouging should report that immediately to the Texas Attorney General for investigation: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/how-spot-and-report-price-gouging>

These price control regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the County Clerk. Any person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.

EXEMPTIONS

This Order does **NOT** extend to law enforcement activities, emergency response operations, court operations, and to school districts of Tyler County (except as noted in Order #8).

The Mayor of each City within Tyler County shall determine the scope of operations of municipal employees.

The Tyler County Courthouse and all county offices shall be closed to the public until further notice. However, most services can be accessed by the public via telephone, electronically or through the mail. Please contact offices via telephone as needed. All Tyler County employees must report for work as required by their supervisors.

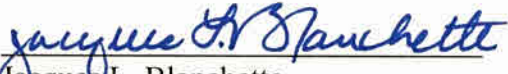
This Executive Order does not mandate sheltering in place or “lock down” at this time. However, if citizens fail to comply with this Order, more stringent restrictions may be implemented. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees shall practice social distancing and good hand hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19.

Tyler County citizens are strongly implored to keep up with and adhere to the ever-changing guidelines set forth by the CDC and DSHS with regards to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Go to [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for valuable information on this infectious disease.

This **SECOND Executive Order** supersedes all previous Orders on this matter, and this Order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding County Judge.

In accordance with Government Code Section 418.108(h), after a declaration of local disaster by the County Judge, the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County. Under Government Code 418.173, violations of the declaration of disaster and orders may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in the jail not to exceed 180 days.

Given under my hand this the
28th Day of March, 2020


Jacques L. Blanchette
Tyler County Judge

ATTESTED BY:


Donece Gregory,
Tyler County Clerk



What does the Stay Home, Work Safe Order mean for my Community?

Our communities play a vital part in helping us stem the spread of COVID-19. This overview is not intended to be a complete list of business types that are impacted. Please note that this order is intended to be narrowly interpreted. Violations are subject to fines and up to 180 days in jail. Please seek legal counsel if you are unsure if a certain business, service, or function is considered essential. Other than Health Care services, all physical contact between providers and customers should be completely avoided.

What is Open?

- Essential Government Functions
- Essential Businesses (see below)
- Restaurants that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Bars that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Micro-Breweries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Micro-Distilleries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Wineries that serve food by take out, delivery or drive-through
- Public Parks but not Playground Equipment
- Open Outdoor Recreation Areas
- Laundromats / Washaterias (while observing social distancing)
- Religious and Worship Services by Video, Teleconference, and Drive-In Type Services

What is closed, for now? (list is not exhaustive)

- Playground Equipment
- Gyms / Cross-Fit Facilities / Martial Arts Facilities
- Fitness Centers / Sports Training Facilities
- Public Swimming Pools and Splash Pads
- Sports and Recreation Training Facilities and Studios
- Hair and Nail Salons
- Spas
- Licensed Massage Businesses
- Tattoo Parlors
- Concert Halls
- Live Performance Theaters
- Arenas
- Stadiums

- Movie Theaters
- Game Rooms / Pool Halls
- Bowling Alleys
- Arcades
- Indoor and Outdoor Flea Markets and Swap Meets
- Indoor Malls, Unless the Individual Store has an Outside Entrance
- Bingo Halls
- Tanning Salons
- Buses and any Other Forms of Public Transportation, including Worksite Busing
- Picnics, Barbeques, Sand-Bar/Beach Parties or any Social Gatherings including more than 10 people
- Outdoor Burning of Debris or Waste

Essential Activities are:

- Performing tasks essential to health and safety, including: obtaining medication or visiting a healthcare professional
- Obtaining supplies or services or delivery of those to others, including: food, pet supplies, household products, work from home supplies
- Engaging in outdoor activity, while keeping social distancing
- Performing work providing essential products and services to an essential business
- Caring for a family member or pet in another household.

Essential Businesses include:

- Critical Infrastructure as identified by the US Department of Homeland Security National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Essential Government Functions including law enforcement, and other services for the health, safety and welfare of the public
- Essential Healthcare Operations including hospitals, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, mental health providers, blood banks, home and residential based care for seniors, adults and children, veterinary and animal welfare operations
- Essential Retail including grocery stores, warehouse stores, gas stations, convenience stores, food producers and service providers
- Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations
- Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses including: trash and recycling collection, mail and shipping services, building maintenance and security, and funeral homes
- News Media
- Childcare and Adult Care Services
- Infrastructure, Development, Operation and Construction Services including public works construction, housing construction, commercial, manufacturing, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, and telecommunications systems
- Transportation Businesses including car dealerships, parts distributors, maintenance and repair facilities, gas stations, vehicles for hire

- Labor Union Functions
- All Marine Ports
- Airports and related operations
- Professional services including legal, accounting, insurance, and real estate services.
- Other businesses that are not listed but either are or support critical industries or services.