



**CITY OF LAREDO'S PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH AUTHORITY TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS FROM COVID 19; AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH AUTHORITY TO DECLARE MINIMUM STANDARDS THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED; CREATING AN OFFENSE AND A PENALTY; AUTHORIZING CIVIL ENFORCEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo (“City”) is a Home Rule City, acting under its Charter adopted by the electorate pursuant to Article XI Section 5 of the Texas Constitution and Chapter 9 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Laredo City Council have been duly elected and qualified and vested with the authority through its police powers to pass and enforce any law that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, and City Charter Section 2.11 allows for the City Council to adopt an emergency ordinance to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, Mayor Pete Saenz issued the first Declaration of Public Health Emergency for the City of Laredo, that allows the City to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Laredo residents; and

WHEREAS, Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code states that a home-rule municipality may adopt rules to protect the health of individuals in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 121.003 of the Texas Health and Safety Code states that a home-rule municipality may enforce any law reasonably necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapters 121 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, and 85 of the Texas Administrative Code, the City Council appointed Dr. Victor Trevino as its Local Health Authority (“Local Health Authority”) with the duty to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Authority is of the opinion that in addition to practicing social distancing and staying home as much as possible, additional control measures are necessary to prevent asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 from unknowingly spreading the disease to the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

SECTION 1. The above-referenced recitals are incorporated herein as the findings of the Laredo City Council as if set forth in full.

SECTION 2. PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH OF PERSONS.

(A) To protect the health of individuals within the City, the Local Health Authority may adopt administrative rules reasonably necessary to protect the health of persons within the City, including mitigating and reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

(B) The Local Health Authority must adopt the administrative rules in this ordinance in a manner that complies with the City of Laredo City Charter.

(C) The City Manager may designate one or more City of Laredo departments to assist the Local Health Authority with administering, implementing, and enforcing this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS.

(A) To protect the life, health, and property of individuals within the City of Laredo, the Local Health Authority adopts the following minimum standards that must be followed:

(B) **Restaurants for Consumption Off-Premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, within the City of Laredo are limited to take out or drive-thru service only and indoor dine in service is hereby prohibited.

(C) **Public and Private Gatherings.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or dwelling unit are prohibited, unless expressly permitted under this Ordinance or the City of Laredo's Amended COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order. Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's dwelling unit.

(D) **Amusement Redemption Centers and Bingo Halls.** All amusement redemption centers and bingo halls within the City of Laredo are hereby prohibited from opening to the public until further notice.

(E) **Business Minimum Standard Requirements.** An individual in control of a business or site with ten or more individuals present at any one time shall comply with the following guidelines:

- (1) Require each individual to wear a face covering;
- (2) Clean and disinfect high touch items at least twice per day;
- (3) Post one or more face coverings signs at or near each entrance;
- (4) Limit the number of individuals who gather or stand together to ten or less;
- (5) Require at least six feet of social distancing between groups of individuals;
- (6) Post one sign in English and one sign in Spanish where information for workers is customarily posted that explains the requirements to remain at least six feet apart and the requirement to wear a face covering;

(7) Keep toilets clean, sanitary, and operational at all times and ensure proper disposal of waste from these facilities;

(8) Provide single use disposable paper towels and no-touch trash receptacles in restrooms and bathrooms;

(9) Mandate workers wash their hands for at least twenty seconds at the following times: (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;

(10) For workers confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, to follow all directions from the City of Laredo Health Department concerning that worker and other workers that have come in contact with the infected worker.

SECTION 4. OFFENSE AND PENALTY.

(A) A person who knowingly violates a health authority rule commits an offense.

(B) Each day that a violation occurs is a separate offense.

(C) Each offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance expires on August 15, 2020, unless otherwise rescinded, superseded, or amended by subsequent order or applicable law.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and the publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS

15th DAY OF July, 2020.



Pete Saenz

PETE SAENZ
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kristina K. Lauree Hale

KRISTINA K. LAUREE HALE
ACTING CITY ATTORNEY/
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER