

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020

City of Laredo Stay Home/Work Safe Order Remains in Effect

LAREDO, Texas—The City of Laredo’s Stay Home/Work Safe measures continue to be in effect with social distancing required and gatherings outside of the household being prohibited. With his new executive order, Texas Governor Greg Abbott expanded upon the list of “essential services” and “re-opened businesses,” and removed the city’s ability to impose fines or penalties for failure to wear a face covering.

Curfew remains, gatherings still prohibited – The City of Laredo has a mandatory Stay Home/Work Safe order that will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, 2020. Residents may be fined for not abiding by the curfew if they are out for a non-essential service or activity.

No minors at stores - Parents and guardians are still prohibited from taking minor children to any grocery store, convenience store, or big box store, unless doing so is necessary because of a lack of alternate childcare.

City administrative offices remain closed to public – City Hall and City Hall Annex remain closed to the public until further notice. Utility, property tax and building permits may still be paid through the drive-thru at City Hall Annex, as well as the night depository at City Hall. In addition, customers may pay online or by phone. For further information, please call 3-1-1.

Laredo Public Libraries and Water Museum remain closed – As a precautionary measure, the Laredo Public Libraries system and the Laredo Water Museum will remain closed.

City parks and golf Course to open – All city parks and the Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course will open on May 1. Individuals may engage in outdoor sports, provided that the sports do not include contact with other participants and no more than four participants play the sport at any time. Individuals may use city park amenities so long as they practice social distancing and not engage in groups of more than four.

Uni-trade Stadium, Sames Auto Arena remain closed – Both facilities remain closed until further notice.

Some services that were not originally deemed essential may physically reopen to the public on May 1 as per Governor Abbott’s Executive Order No. GA-18. Those businesses allowed to reopen include retail, movie theatres/cinemas, museums, libraries and restaurants. All of the mentioned establishments must be limited to 25 percent occupancy capacity.

List of establishments that may reopen on May 1:

Retailers and Shopping Malls

- For retailers, consider having all employees wear cloth face coverings over their nose and mouth
- Business owners are highly encouraged to dedicate certain shopping times for at-risk customers, and provide delivery or curbside options if possible

Movie Theatres/Cinemas

- Must continue with physical distancing requirements and keep two seats (6 feet) empty between parties and leave every other row empty
- Must disinfect seats between screenings
- Remote ticketing options is highly encouraged
- For dine-in theatres, no items should be left on unoccupied tables (including condiments, silverware, etc.)
- Theatres should use disposable menus and not share condiments

Museums and Libraries

- The City of Laredo Public Library system will remain **closed**
- The City of Laredo Water Museum will remain **closed**
- For private museums that decide to open, they must keep hands-on, interactive areas closed

Restaurants

- May not have more than 25 percent occupancy at any time
- No more than six customers per table
- Physical distancing guidelines still apply; customers must remain six feet apart
- Must use disposable menus
- Must not leave items on unoccupied tables and cannot share condiments
- Must provide hand sanitizing station at the entrance

Outdoor Sports

- Outdoor sports may restart provided that the sport does not include contact with other participants (contactless sports)
- The City of Laredo Parks and Recreation system, including all parks, trails and Max A. Mandel Municipal Golf Course, will **open** on Friday, May 1, 2020. **Pools and playgrounds will remain closed. State Park Lake Casa Blanca will also remain closed until further notice.**

- Groups are limited to no more than four persons; physical distancing guidelines of 6 feet must still be followed. As part of Phase 2 of Governor Abbott’s Executive Order, group size may expand as early as May 18 if there are no spikes in COVID-19 cases

Religious Services

- Houses of worship are allowed to have service but should conduct as many of their activities as possible remotely. Services that houses of worship do not conduct remotely should be conducted in accordance with the following minimum health protocols described in 1 Exec. Order No. GA 18 at 3 (Apr. 27, 2020) and guidance from the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please see the joint guidance issued by Governor Greg Abbott and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/admin/2020/Press/T hird%20Revised%20AG%20Guidance%20for%20Houses%20of%20Worship%20During%20the%20COVID-19%20Crisis%20-%20Final.pdf>

Bars/lounges/private clubs, gyms, hair/nail/beauty salons, barbershops, spas, reception halls, party rental places, and interactive amusement venues such as bingos, bowling alleys, video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, and “maquinitas” will remain closed. Persons may not visit nursing homes, state-supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities.

Facial coverings are still ordered to be worn within city limits, but no fines or penalties will be issued for noncompliance. Facial coverings must also be worn when using public transit or ride shares/taxis.

For more information, please visit www.cityoflaredo.com/coronavirus.html.

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