



**CITY OF LAREDO AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**  
**INSTITUTING EMERGENCY MEASURES DUE TO**  
**THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laredo (the “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**, on March 16, 2020, a Declaration of a Local Disaster was issued by Mayor Pete Saenz for the City of Laredo to take steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved the existence of a statewide emergency in the State of Texas following the declaration of a public health disaster made by Governor Greg Abbott and Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, because COVID-19 “has created an immediate threat, poses a high risk of death to a large number of people, and creates a substantial risk of public exposure because of the disease’s method of transmission and evidence that there is community spread in Texas;” and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has indicated that COVID-19 is spread primarily by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and droplets can also be generated by talking, laughing, or exhaling; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director for Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), Dr. Robert Redfield, stated as many as one in four people who are infected show no signs of having COVID-19, and people experiencing no symptoms can spread COVID-19 more widely than previously thought; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has stated that people are the most contagious before they start showing symptoms of COVID-19, and individuals can be infected with the virus and be contagious even when they have no symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Tom Ingelsby, Director of John Hopkins Center for Health Security, has determined that face coverings should be required because COVID-19 can spread when asymptomatic people go out in public and requiring individuals to wear face masks will reduce the transmission of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC has recently announced that it is in the process of reviewing mask recommendations based on growing evidence that people experiencing no symptoms can spread the disease more widely than previously thought; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, acknowledges that there is a significant amount of asymptomatic spread and recommends that individuals use face coverings and attempt to not touch their face to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has further recommended that individuals wear facial coverings to prevent individuals from infecting others; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, and Chapter 85 of the Texas Administrative Code, the City Council has appointed Dr. Hector Gonzalez as the Director of Health, and Dr. Victor Trevino as its local health authority, with the duty administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the City of Laredo; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hector Gonzalez and Dr. Victor Trevino have advised the City Council that covering an individual's nose and mouth can diminish the chance of cough droplets being spread in the air, and that wearing even a homemade mask, scarf, or bandana will reduce the propensity for people to touch their faces thereby partially preventing asymptomatic individuals with COVID-19 from unknowingly spreading the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to practicing social distancing and staying at home as much as possible, Dr. Hector Gonzalez and Dr. Victor Trevino have recommended to City Council that mandating the citizens to wear a facial covering will help to prevent the spread of COVID-19 because the more people that do so, the less the virus is distributed and fewer individuals are exposed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has investigated and determined that countries who have implemented requirements for partial facial coverage, such as Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria, have significantly slowed down the spread of the virus; 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**, in the exercise of its legislative discretion, the City Council hereby finds and declares that all the measures contained within this Ordinance are promulgated under its general police powers of the City, are consistent with the regulations contained within the Executive Order issued by Governor Abbott on March 31, 2020 implementing the Essential Services & Activities Protocol, are the least restrictive to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and are absolutely necessary for the preservation and protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Laredo.

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

1. Recitals Incorporated. The above-referenced recitals are incorporated herein as the findings of the City Council as if set forth in full.
2. That, if any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby, it being the intent of the City Council in adopting this Ordinance that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, void, or invalidity of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable for that purpose.
3. That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect on **12:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2020 and shall continue until 11:59 PM on April 30, 2020** until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to another order or applicable law.
4. That the following measures shall be immediately enacted in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America that can be accessed online at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20\\_coronavirus\\_guidance\\_8.5x11\\_315PM.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus_guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf), and which includes, but is not limited to, the requiring of persons to avoid gatherings in groups of more than ten (10), the closure of indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate, and the practicing of good hygiene, environmental cleanliness and sanitation:

**SECTION 1. Stay at Home or Place of Residence.** All individuals currently living within the City of Laredo, are ORDERED to shelter at their place of residence except as allowed by this Ordinance. All persons may leave their residences only to perform certain Essential Activities, or to perform or obtain services from Essential Businesses, Government Functions or services, or Critical Infrastructure identified herein and in accordance with Executive Order No. GA-14 issued by Governor Greg Abbott.

**SECTION 2. Non-Essential Business operations must cease.** All businesses or operations with facilities in City of Laredo, except Essential Businesses as defined herein, are required to cease all activities within the City except for Minimum Basic Operations. For purposes of this Order, Minimum Basic Operations is the following, provided that employees comply with the minimum six feet social distancing requirements to the extent possible: (1) the minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences; and or (2) the minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business' inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions the following while carrying out. **NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PROHIBIT ANY NON-ESSENTIAL RETAIL STORE FROM TAKING ON-LINE OR TELEPHONE MERCHANDISE ORDERS TO BE FULFILLED BY RETAILER VIA CURB-SIDE OR HOME DELIVERY, PROVIDED THAT**

**PROTECTIVE GEAR SUCH AS MASKS AND GLOVES ARE WORN AND NO MORE THAN TEN EMPLOYEES ARE WORKING INSIDE THE STORE.**

**SECTION 3. Essential Businesses, Government Services, and Critical Infrastructure.**

These may and are strongly encouraged to remain open in accordance with the requirements as identified herein and in accordance with Executive Order No. GA-14 issued by Governor Greg Abbott.

**SECTION 4. Prohibited Activities.** All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or dwelling unit are prohibited, except for the Essential Activities or to perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or services, or Critical Infrastructure. Nothing in this Ordinance prohibits the gathering of members of a household within the household's dwelling unit.

**SECTION 5. Travel.** All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit is prohibited, except for purposes of Essential Activities or to perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or service, or Critical Infrastructure. People riding on public transit shall comply with all requirements set forth herein.

**SECTION 6. Prior City Orders and Declarations.** This Emergency Ordinance is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference the Declaration of Disaster issued on March 16, 2020, Emergency Ordinance previously issued and adopted by the Laredo City Council on March 17, 2020, and the Declaration of Disaster issued on March 27, 2020. In the event of a conflict between this Emergency Ordinance and a prior declaration or order pertaining to COVID-19, this Emergency Ordinance prevails.

**SECTION 7. Exemption.** Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Ordinance except that, to the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they shall, to the greatest extent feasible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirement. Individuals experiencing homelessness are strongly urged to obtain shelter. Governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation.

**SECTION 8. Essential Activities.** For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the "Essential Activities" listed herein. However, people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence to the extent possible, except as necessary to seek medical care.

**a) For Health and Safety.** 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 (including, but not limited to pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional;

**b) For Necessary Supplies and Services.** To obtain necessary services or supplies for

themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, including pet supplies and food, supplies they need to work from home, household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;

- c) **For Outdoor Activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, or running provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements;
- d) **For Certain Types of Work.** To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business, Government Service, or Critical Infrastructure, or to carry out activities specifically permitted in this Ordinance, including Minimum Basic Operations; or
- e) **To Take Care of Others.** To care for a family member or pet in another household;
- f) **To perform or obtain services from an Essential Business, Government Function or service, or Critical Infrastructure** as identified herein and in accordance with Executive Order No. GA-14 issued by Governor Greg Abbott.
- g) **To return home from or to another jurisdiction.**

**SECTION 9. Essential Government Functions.** "Essential Government Functions" means all services, including necessary administrative and support services, needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public and all agencies that provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public. The City of Laredo shall determine its Essential Government Functions and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions. To the extent feasible, all Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing requirements.

**SECTION 10. Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Essential Critical Infrastructure means all public and private facilities and assets, including both physical and cyber systems, and other functions and sectors vital to the security, governance, public health, safety, and economic continuity of the City of Laredo, including warehouses, public works construction, residential and commercial construction provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with social distancing requirement of six (6) feet and use protective gear that covers their nose and mouth with a medical mask or any form of cloth.

**SECTION 11. Essential Businesses.** In this Ordinance, "Essential Businesses" means:

- a) **Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare Operations includes, but is not limited to 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 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. Any medical or surgical procedures intended to treat ongoing moderate/severe acute or chronic pain, any emergent orthopedic procedures, or any other necessary procedures that can be performed safely in a properly equipped physician's office, ambulatory surgery center, or urgent care facility MAY be performed with the goal of relieving overstressed hospital emergency departments from non-COVID urgent healthcare. Physicians SHALL document medical necessity in patient medical records, procedures or surgical notes.

- b) Stores that sell Groceries and Certain Other Essential Supplies.** Grocery stores, supermarkets, big-box stores, farmers' markets, food banks, liquor stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences. To the greatest extent possible, essential retail establishments shall adhere to the following guidelines:
- i.** Designate shopping times for at risk individuals;
  - ii.** Limit the amount of people in a store at once so that social distancing is possible;
  - iii.** Implement an organized system where people are spaced ideally 6 feet apart;
  - iv.** Implement purchase limits on high-demand items (toilet paper, soap, hand sanitizer);
  - v.** Offer pick up or deliveries of grocery items;
  - vi.** Limit entering residences upon deliveries to the greatest extent possible.
  - vii.** Convenience Stores may remain open, provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including employees and customers, and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- c) Food Cultivation.** Food cultivation, including farming, ranching, livestock, and fishing;
- d) Social Services and Charitable Organizations.** Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- e) News Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other news media services;
- f) Gas Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation.** Gas stations, automobile dealerships, auto-manufacturing and assembly, auto-supply, auto repair, and other related facilities;
- g) Financial Institutions.** Banks and related financial institutions, consumer lenders, sales and finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies;
- h) Hardware and Supply Stores.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing,

and other material necessary to support Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Functions;

- i) **Critical Trades.** Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, pool cleaners, and other service providers only to the extent that services are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, essential activities, Essential Businesses, Essential Government Services, and Critical Infrastructure, including but not limited to utilities such as electricity, gas, water and wastewater, and other public works. Critical Trades does not include discretionary maintenance or improvements;
- j) **Mail and Delivery Services.** Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- k) **Educational Institutions.** Educational institutions-including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of temporarily closing facilities including dormitories, facilitating distance learning or performing critical research or essential functions, provided social distancing requirements are maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- l) **Religious Institutions.** Religious and worship services may be provided by video and teleconference. Institutions must limit in-person staff or volunteers to 10 people or less in the same room when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines (including the social distancing guideline of six (6) feet). If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the latest Guidelines from the President and the CDC to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- m) **Restaurants for Consumption Off-Premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food as well as handle money, must adhere to strictest standards of food preparation and wear gloves and cover their nose and mouth with a medical mask or any form of cloth. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site;
- n) **Supplies to Work from Home.** Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- o) **Supplies and Service for Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure and Essential Government Functions.** Businesses or services that supply other Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, and Essential Government Functions with the support or supplies necessary to operate; including but not limited to janitorial services, laundry services, computers, audio and video electronics, hardware, paint, electrical and plumbing material, sanitary equipment, medical equipment, and food and beverages and must comply with the social distancing requirements;

- p) **Firearm and ammunition retailers.** These, for purposes of safety and security, may remain open provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including employees and customers, and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- q) **Food Delivery Services.** Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
- r) **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers (such as Uber and Lyft) that provide transportation services necessary for the performance of essential activities, Essential Businesses, Critical Infrastructure, Essential Government Functions, and Essential Travel;
- s) **Home-Based Care and Services.** Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children, including caregivers who may travel to provide care;
- t) **Residential Facilities and Shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, children and animals;
- u) **Professional Services.** Accounting, residential and commercial real estate services, including settlement services. Legal services only when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities and only to the extent that service can be provided with Minimum Basic Operations as defined in Section 2;
- v) **Information Technology Services and Telecommunications Services.** These services and their essential services vendors, including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, web-based services, and critical manufacturing, as well as telecommunications services, internet access and broadband/communications services;
- w) **Adult Daycare Facilities.** Businesses that operate a Day Activity Health Services (DAHS) Facility may remain open as long as they comply with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission *Guidance on COVID 19 Response in DAHS Facilities*.
- x) **Childcare Facilities.** Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
- i. Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
  - ii. Children shall not change from one group to another.
  - iii. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
  - iv. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.
- y) **Moving Supply Services.** Businesses that provide residential and/or commercial moving services and necessary moving supplies;



**z) Hotels and Motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging or delivery or carry-out food services;

**aa) Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, provided that no more than 10 people are present in a single space including visitors and employees/staff and social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible.

**bb) Fabric Stores.** Retail stores that sell fabric may allow customers inside the store for the purpose of selling fabric only, provided that social distancing requirements are met. All other merchandise may be sold via curbside or delivery only.

**SECTION 12. Positive Test Result.** If someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19 and is not hospitalized, the household is ordered to isolate at home for a period of at least three days (72 hours) *since* recovery is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); and, at least seven (7) days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*. The Health Department may impose a longer period of time for isolation. If a member of the household tests positive, then other members of the household should consider themselves positive if they become symptomatic and follow the isolation and quarantine measures prescribed by local, state, or federal health authorities. Asymptomatic members of the household shall not go to work, school, or any other community function until the member of the household who tested positive is no longer required to isolate.

**SECTION 13. Nursing Homes, Retirement, and Long-Term Care Facilities.** Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.

**SECTION 14. City Employees.** Additionally, the City of Laredo instructs all employees to remain at home if sick, and to promptly communicate with an appropriate health care professional.

**SECTION 15. Posting.** The City of Laredo must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the City website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

**SECTION 16. Accessible Streets.** All typical routes of ingress and egress (roads and streets, City roads, state and other highways, Interstate highways) throughout the City shall remain open and accessible except as otherwise provided herein.

**SECTION 17. Six (6) Foot Social Distancing Requirement.** As hereby ordered, the social distancing requirement of six (6) feet shall be followed at all times.

**SECTION 18. Curfew.**

- a) A curfew for all persons aged 17 and under to be imposed from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- b) A curfew for all persons aged 18 and over to be imposed from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM, unless that person is out for an emergency, or to perform certain Essential Activities, or to perform or obtain services from Essential Businesses, Government Functions or services, or Critical Infrastructure as defined herein unless otherwise superseded by Executive Order No. GA-14 issued by Governor Greg Abbott.

**SECTION 19. Penalties.** In accordance with the authority granted under Texas Government Section 418.173, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, notwithstanding the penalty set forth for a violation of Section 20, any person who violates this Ordinance may be subject to a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or confinement for a period not exceeding 180 days.

**SECTION 20. Covering of Nose and Mouth.** Except as provided herein, all persons over the age of five (5) are required to wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief, when: entering into or inside of any building open to the public; when using public transportation, taxis, or ride shares; or when pumping gas. This Section shall not apply to person that are: engaging in a permissible outside physical activity; that are riding in a personal vehicle; that are in alone in a separate single space; that are with their own shelter group (household members); when doing so poses a greater health, safety or security risk; or for consumption purposes. The penalty for a violation of this section shall be a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

**SECTION 21. City Delinquent Tax Sales and Auctions.** All delinquent city tax sales and auctions shall be cancelled for the duration of April and May 2020.

**SECTION 22. Monetary Donations.** The City of Laredo City Council deems it in the best interest of the public to issue the following monetary donations:

- a) \$10,000.00 to the Laredo Regional Food Bank for the purposes of providing meals to local people in need;
- b) \$10,000.00 to Joseph Store House at New Vision Community Church for the purposes of replenishing their food pantry that is to be distributed and delivered to senior citizens and those in need at no cost; and
- c) \$100,000.00 to the South Texas Food Bank for the purposes of providing meals to people in need provided that documentation and receipts for food purchases can be accounted for by City personnel.

**SECTION 23. Collected Revenues.** The City Manager shall earmark all revenues collected for violations of City Emergency Orders and/or Emergency Ordinances in response to the COVID-19 Disaster Relief for the purchase of emergency supplies.

**SECTION 24. City Authority Regarding “Essential Businesses”.** The final authority as to the primary function of a business and whether such business may be deemed “essential” shall be made by the City of Laredo.

**SECTION 25. Social Distancing and Travel Recommendations:**

- 1. Avoid traveling to other jurisdictions unless essential for work or health.**
- 2. Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings.** Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - a. 60 years old and older.
  - b. People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- 3. Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure**
  - a. Suspend nonessential employee travel
  - b. Ensure employees practice social distancing and do not work within six (6) feet of one another.
  - c. Urge essential employees to stay home if sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
  - d. Do not require a doctor’s note for employees who are sick.
  - e. Maximize telecommuting options.
  - f. Persons who need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community must take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.
- 4. Cancel Non-essential events**
  - a. Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
  - b. For events that aren’t cancelled, we recommend:
    - 1) Provide hand washing, hand sanitizers stations and make tissues available.
    - 2) Frequently clean high-touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails.
    - 3) Finding ways to implement social distancing.
- 5. Schools Safety First**
  - a. Do not have your child attend school if sick.
  - b. If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child’s doctor about school attendance.

- c. Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- d. Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- e. Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- f. Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for further closures.

**6. Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- a. Increase cleaning of vehicle and high touch surface areas.
- b. Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.
- c. Ensure social distancing practices are implemented to the full extent possible.

**7. Health Care Setting: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable.**

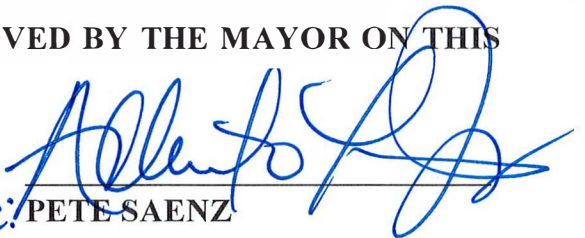
- a. Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan pursuant to CDC/ state guidelines.
- b. Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- c. The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- d. If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, to possibly be served by phone.
- e. Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- f. Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

**8. Everyone: Do your part**

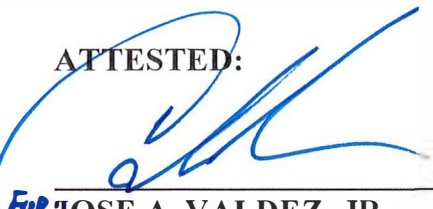
- a. The best way for all City of Laredo residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:
  - 1) Wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds.
  - 2) Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
  - 3) Stay home if you are sick.
  - 4) Avoid touching your face.
- b. Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- c. If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidelines.

- d. There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.
- e. You can also prepare for the disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:
  - 1) Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
  - 2) Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
  - 3) Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
  - 4) Make arrangements about how your family will manage school closures.
  - 5) Plan for how you can care for as sick family member without getting sick yourself.
  - 6) Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
  - 7) Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.

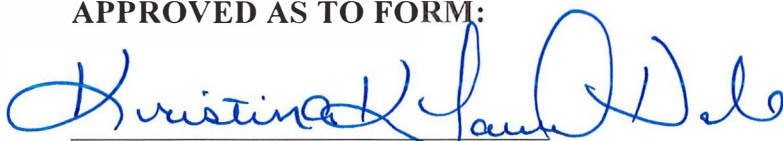
**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doc: PETE SAENZ  
MAYOR

**ATTESTED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For: JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KRISTINA K. LAUREL HALE  
CITY ATTORNEY

