



ORDER

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAREDO

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State 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, on March 16, 2020, a Declaration of a Local Disaster was issued to allow the City of Laredo to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Laredo residents; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

WHEREAS, the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommends an “All of Community” approach focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing to reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order prohibits Community Gatherings of 50 persons or more anywhere in the City of Laredo beginning at 2:00 AM on the March 18, 2020 and shall continue until rescinded, superseded, or amended or until expired pursuant to applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Local Health Authority or Director of Health recommends following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order, including cancelling, postponing, or not attending events or community gatherings with more than 50 people. In addition, the Local Health Authority or Director of Health urges individuals who are at the highest risk from COVID-19, as determined and defined by the CDC, to not attend and to avoid community gatherings or events that will have or will likely have 10 or more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

SECTION 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. Effective as of 2:00 AM on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, and shall continue until they are rescinded, superseded, or amended or until they expire pursuant to applicable law. The Mayor of the City of Laredo, Texas deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT any public**

or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3, below) anywhere in the City of Laredo.

SECTION 3. Definitions:

- a. For purposes of this Order, a “Community Gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together fifty (50) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, restaurant, or nightclub/bar, entertainment center, amusement redemption center, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space. For clarity, this includes, but is not limited to, weddings, religious gatherings, parties, funerals, sporting events, social events, conferences, and other large gatherings.
- b. An outdoor “Community Gathering” under this Order is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm’s length of one another for extended periods.
- c. This Order also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces (including separate cubicles) in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, school classrooms, or different floors of a multi-level building, so long as 50 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Order also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 50 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 50 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., the Mayor of the City of Laredo and the Local Health Authority or Director of Health strongly encourages compliance with the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly and frequently touched services.
- d. For purposes of clarity, a “Community Gathering” does not include spaces where 50 or more persons may in transit on buses, trains, or airplanes; or waiting for transit, such as airports, bus stops or terminals. In addition, “Community Gathering” does not include the following spaces where 50 or more persons may congregate, so long as visitors are generally not within arm’s length of one another for extended periods:
 - i. Office space or residential buildings;
 - ii. Grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people may be

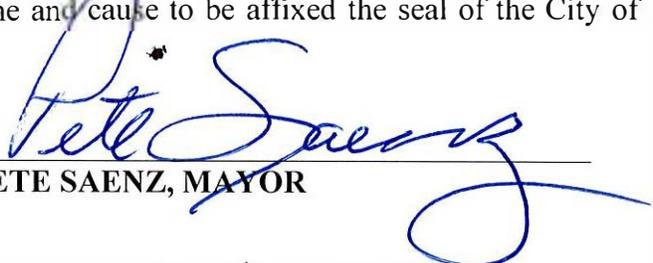
- present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and
- iii. Hospitals and medical offices and facilities

In all such settings, the Mayor of the City of Laredo and the Local Health Authority or Director of Health recommends following the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, and personal hygiene measures, including providing hand sanitizer and facial tissues.

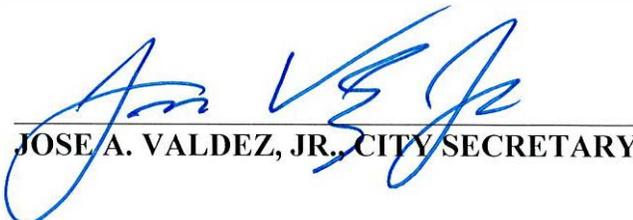
SECTION 4. That City of Laredo Police Officers and City of Laredo Code Enforcement Inspectors are hereby authorized to enforce this Order. These emergency regulations shall have the effect of an ordinance when duly filed with the City Secretary. A person who violates any provision of this Order, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$2,000.

SECTION 5. The City of Laredo will post this Order on its website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility this 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. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of these regulations.

ORDERED THIS 17th DAY OF MARCH, 2020 in the City of Laredo, Webb County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Laredo.


PETE SAENZ, MAYOR

Filed with the City Secretary of the City of Laredo, this 17th day of March, 2020, by Mayor Pete Saenz, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand and the seal of the City of Laredo.


JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR., CITY SECRETARY



City of Laredo Health Authority Social Distancing Recommendations

1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
 - 60 years old and older; or
 - People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings (of 10 people or more) unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

2) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize the number of employees working within arm's length or one another, including minimizing or cancelling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Permit sick employees to stay home without providing a doctor's note.
- Consider the use of telecommuting options.
- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

3) Large Gatherings: Cancel Non-Essential Events

- Recommend cancelling or postponing large gatherings, such as concerts, sporting events, conventions, or large community events.
- Do not attend any events or gatherings if sick.
- For events that aren't cancelled, we recommend:
 - Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers, and tissues available;
 - Frequently cleaning high touch surface areas like countertops, doorknobs, and handrails; and
 - Finding ways to create physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible

4) Schools: Safety First

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Frequent re-educations of students and staff regarding personal hygiene measures (handwashing, etc.) and ensuring that appropriate signs are posted.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential, even if the events would otherwise comply with the Order.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures and families



Summary of the Mayor's Order

The Order signed by the Mayor of the City of Laredo on March 17, 2020 prohibits public or private Community Gatherings anywhere in the City of Laredo to take effect at 2:00 AM on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and will continue until rescinded, superseded, amended or expired pursuant to applicable law.

This Order applies to businesses and private homes. While it does not shut down any specific business, it does prohibit any business or private home from having no more than 50 people, including employees, in a single enclosed space at any time.

This Order does not apply to:

- Buses and Bus Stops
- Airplanes
- Office spaces
- Grocery stores
- Shopping Malls
- Retail establishments where it is unusual for people to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods
- Hospitals
- Medical offices
- Medical facilities

The Order will be enforced by Laredo Police Officers and City of Laredo Code Enforcement Inspectors. Upon conviction, violations are punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$2,000.

The Mayor has the authority and shall impose further restrictions on certain businesses, as needed, in the interest of public safety.

We emphasize that there is no current order to shut down bars, restaurants, or food establishments.



How does this impact child care/daycare facilities?

Child care facilities can operate so long as no more than 10 people are present in any single space at the same time. For example, a facility may be able to accommodate placing people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as school classrooms or different floors of a multi-level building, with no more than 10 people in each separate/single space.

Does this order apply to Eight Liner business establishments (“Maquinitas”)?

Yes, this order applies to all business establishments including “maquinitas.” The order prohibits gatherings of 50 or more people at the same time in a single room or other enclosed space.

Does this order apply to gatherings of twenty individuals?

The order does not apply to community gatherings of twenty people. Restrictions are in place for social gatherings of 50 or more individuals.

What is the impact to bars and restaurants?

Food establishments are ordered to not have more than 50 people present in an enclosed area, and encouraged to provide take-away or no-contact delivery food service designed to limit exposure between individuals.

Does this order apply to facilities with separate rooms?

The order requires that no more than 50 individuals be present in a single enclosed space. The order does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building.



POLICE

Contact: Officer Emanuel Diaz
4712 Maher Ave
Laredo, Tx 78041

Phone: (956) 795-2800

Email: Ediaz@ci.laredo.tx.us

Date: 3/17/2020

Re: Laredo Police Department to begin enforcing Mayoral Declaration

On Monday March 16, 2020, the City of Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz issued a declaration into the recent COVID-19 Pandemic. In the declaration, mass gatherings of 50 persons or more whether in a private or public setting will be prohibited. Examples of such include but are not limited to:

1. Restaurants
2. Nightclub/bars
3. Amusement redemption center
4. Parties
5. Weddings
6. Religious gatherings

There are certain exceptions to enforcement such as:

1. Any public or private schools
2. Airport or transit centers
3. Grocery stores, shopping malls, outdoor markets (etc)
4. Hospitals/medical facilities
5. Jails/detention centers
6. Multiplex theaters



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Violators of the declaration, if convicted, could face a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$2,000.

The Laredo Police Department will begin enforcement of the declaration immediately. Although stringent, the declaration and enforcement are being done in an effort to protect the most vulnerable in our community from potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. For the complete declaration, please visit the City of Laredo website or social media pages.



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