

For Immediate Release
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**LATEST CITY DECLARATION INCREASES IN-BUSINESS SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES TO 8 FEET,
DECREASES ALLOWED OCCUPANCY OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES TO 25 PERCENT**

*Declaration Includes Guidance for Public Schools from Texas Education Agency;
Masks and Facial Coverings Required in Public Settings as Curfew Continues*

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (July 23, 2020) — The City of Brownsville released the latest amendment to the [Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency](#), which includes an increase in social distancing measures, as well as a decrease in permitted occupancy of certain businesses.

The ninth amendment to the order will be in effect until at least Tuesday, August 4, 2020. The stay-at-home curfew continues as 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for persons age 17 and younger, and 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. for persons over the age of 18. The order also continues to require residents to wear facial covering or masks in public settings, and strongly encourages shelter-at-home, unless obtaining or providing essential services.

Restaurants, gyms and exercise facilities, bingo halls and bowling alleys must now operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy. In addition, in-restaurant tables, salon and barber stations, tattoo studio stations, beauty services stations, and bowling lanes must be placed a minimum of eight feet apart from one another — an addition of two feet from previous guidelines. Gyms and exercise facilities must now require guests to wear a facial covering at all times. Bingo halls and bowling alleys must now install HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters.

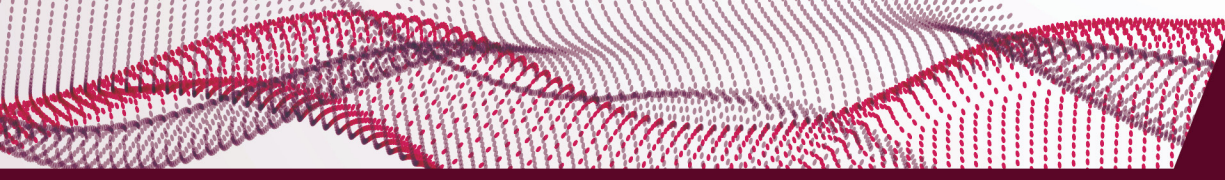
The declaration also includes guidelines for public school districts as recommended by the Texas Education Agency Public Health Planning Guidance. These actions include requirements for parental and public notices, practices to prevent viral spread, desks being at least 8 feet apart should in-class instruction be approved, and HEPA filters being installed in each instructional room.

People over the age of 65 and those health conditions that would make them vulnerable to COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible.

“As case numbers continue to rise, we needed to revise our guidelines to aggressively fight the spread of this virus,” **Mayor Trey Mendez** said. “I ask for your continued vigilance as we protect our friends and neighbors, and our loved ones at home, by wearing facial coverings, getting tested if you have symptoms, and maintaining social distancing requirements.”

The following measures will continue to be in place through Tuesday, August 4, unless otherwise amended:

- Outdoor gatherings in excess of 100 people are prohibited, unless approved by the Mayor or the County Judge.
- Bars and similar venues are to remain closed.
- Shopping malls may continue to operate at up to 50 percent of the total listed occupancy, but the food court and play areas will remain closed.
- Occupants traveling in a vehicle with more than one person shall use facial coverings.
- Garage sales, yard sales, and indoor and outdoor flea markets are not permitted.
- Religious and worship services are strongly encouraged to be provided by video and teleconference.
- Elective medical and surgical procedures are prohibited.



CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

- No more than 16 individuals may ride a B-Metro bus at one time and facial coverings are required at all times.
- City library indoor facilities are closed, but the Library will begin its reopening plan that include curbside service and kids crafts on-the-go.
- City parks, including playground sets, fitness equipment, and restrooms, may reopen in strict compliance with health requirements.

For more information about the City of Brownsville's response to the coronavirus pandemic and to donate to the BTX Cares Fund, go to www.btxcares.com.

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