

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-009R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RED OAK, TEXAS, EXTENDING A MAYORAL DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ORDER AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS; PROVIDING FOR INTERIM PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of Red Oak on Friday, March 13, 2020 signed a Declaration Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 Virus and issued an Order with Restrictions for community gatherings and assemblies; and

**WHEREAS**, the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 Virus have increased the need for social distancing and precautionary public safety response; and.

**WHEREAS**, State law provides that the Mayoral Declaration must expire on the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day after its issuance; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Virus continues to necessitate an extensive and prompt public safety response; and, the regulations set forth in the Mayoral Declaration may need to be extended and/or modified in order to continue to protect the general public;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RED OAK, TEXAS THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** The amended Mayoral Declaration and amended Order dated Friday, March 13, 2020, and March 19, 2020, set to expire at 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby continued and renewed and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020.

**SECTION 2.** The City Manager shall take all steps necessary, expressed and implied under said Declaration and Order in accordance with State law and the City of Red Oak Emergency Management Plan to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Red Oak.

**SECTION 3.** The amended Mayoral Declaration and Order is **ADOPTED, CONTINUED AND RENEWED**; and, the City Council hereby takes the additional actions as provided herein which are as follows:

a. That the City Manager or his designee may utilize the Federal Emergency Management Act procurement during exigent or emergency provision of the Code of Federal Regulations.

b. The City Manager may revoke any certificate of occupancy or other permits for any business that fails to comply with any provision of this Resolution, Declaration or Order.

c. The City Manager may waive enforcement of any regulatory and ordinance provision for any businesses subject to this order in order to promote and execute the provisions of this Resolution.

d. The City shall suspend accepting any applications for zoning, plats and other land use regulations after the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

e. The Council and/or any of its Boards, Commissions or Committees may meet by video conference or telecommunication as amended by the Governor.

f. The Council hereby excuses and waives all attendance requirements for Board, Commission or Committee members during the application of this Resolution.


g. In accordance with the guidelines from the CDC people shall not visit nursing homes, retirement, or long-term care unless to provide critical assistance.

**SECTION 4.** Any prior resolution of the City Council in conflict with the provisions contained in this Resolution are hereby repealed and revoked.

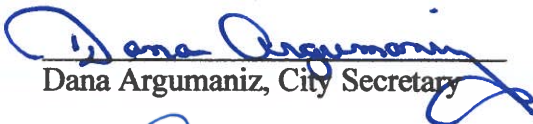
**SECTION 5.** Should any part of this Resolution be held to be invalid for any reason, the remainder shall not be affected thereby, and such remaining portions are hereby declared to be severable.

**SECTION 6.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately from and after its passage, as the law and charter in such cases provide.

**DULY PASSED** and approved by the City Council of the City of Red Oak, Texas, on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

APPROVED:  
  
Mark L. Stanfill, DVM, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Dana Argumaniz, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Robert Hager, City Attorney



**AMENDED ORDER OF RED OAK**  
**DATE AMENDED ORDER ISSUED: March 19, 2020**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Mayor of the City of Red Oak issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020, due to a novel coronavirus now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Stanfill issued an Order in furtherance of his authority to protect the safety and welfare of the public by slowing the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, the on-going evaluation of circumstances related to the virus and the updated recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services previous orders and amendments;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people's interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people;

THEREFORE, the March 13, 2020, Order of City of Red Oak Mayor Mark L. Stanfill hereby AMENDED as follows:

Summary: The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order prohibits community gatherings, as defined by Section 3 herein, of 50 persons or more anywhere in the City of Red Oak beginning at 11:59 p.m. on March 18, 2020, and continuing through 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020. Additionally, this Order prohibits social gatherings, as defined by Section 3 herein, of 10 persons or more anywhere in the City of Red Oak beginning at 11:59 p.m. on March 18, 2020. For gatherings of less than 10 persons, the City of Red Oak and the Ellis County Health Authority strongly recommends following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order. Additionally, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Ellis County Health Authority urges in the strongest terms possible all high-risk individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cancel, reschedule, or not attend any event.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, CITY OF RED OAK MAYOR MARK L. STANFILL ORDERS:**

1. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and continuing until 11:00 a.m. on April 13, 2020
  - (a) Public or private Recreational Gatherings and Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3 below) are prohibited anywhere in Ellis County
  - (b) Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law,
  - (c) Bars, lounges, taverns, private clubs, arcades, and gyms shall close.
  - (d) Bowling alleys, skating rinks, bingo and gaming rooms, cigar or smoking (vaping) lounges shall close.
2. In addition, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Ellis County Department of Health and Human Services (“Health Authority”) strongly urge high-risk individuals to cancel, reschedule, and not attend all gatherings until further notice. These recommendations are based on the social distancing practices attached to this Order as well as the “Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission” issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”). The Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Health Authority urge people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
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, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space. 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 six feet of one another for extended periods. For clarity, community gatherings include, but are not limited to, weddings, religious services, funerals, and other gatherings.
  - b. For the purposes of the Order, a “Recreational Gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening that is primarily social or recreational in nature, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space. For clarity, social gatherings include, but are not limited to, parties, backyard barbecues, social events, sporting events, and other gatherings. Private facilities, such as county clubs, may still operate their outdoor facilities, such as golf or tennis courts, but must limit indoor activities, such as their card rooms and similar amenities to 10 people or less.
  - c. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as school classrooms, residential buildings, or hotels, 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 example, residential buildings may continue to operate their common facilities, such as laundry facilities, so long as 50 or more people are not present at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Ellis County Health Authority strongly encourage compliance with the attached Recommendations, including social distancing, providing hand sanitizer and tissues, and increasing cleaning of commonly and frequently touched services.

d. This Order does not apply to the following critical facilities, so long as visitors are generally not within six feet of one another for extended periods:

- i. (i) critical infrastructure, including airport facilities and operations, bus stations, transit, and transit facilities;
- ii. (ii) government buildings providing essential services;
- iii. (iii) schools or institutes of higher learning;
- iv. (iv) office buildings, so long as employers take all steps reasonably possible to implement social distancing protocols;
- v. (v) grocery stores and pharmacies; and
- vi. (vi) hospitals and medical offices and facilities, including cafes and restaurants located within these facilities.

For purposes of this Order, “grocery stores” includes warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, gas stations, and farmers’ markets that sell food products and household staples.

In the settings described in Section (3)(d), the Red Oak Mayor and the Ellis County Health Authority strongly encourage compliance with the attached Recommendations, including social distancing, providing hand sanitizer and tissues, and increasing cleaning of commonly and frequently touched services.

4. Our community’s critical infrastructure, which includes communications, emergency services, energy, transportation systems, and water and wastewater systems, are instructed by this order to continue operating and encouraged to implement screening precautions to protect employees.

5. Grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, hospitals, and medical facilities are experiencing high levels of demand for a large number of products, requiring more deliveries from manufacturers and distribution centers to serve their customers. A number of Texas cities and local associations have implemented restrictions on delivery hours to stores to mitigate truck noise and traffic. Due to the need to deliver products as quickly and efficiently as possible during this critical time frame, this Order hereby suspends all delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies in Ellis County for the next 60 days.

6. If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function.

7. 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.

8. Public and private schools and institutions of higher education are instructed by this order to provide a safety plan to Ellis County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 72 hours before students return to a classroom setting.

9. Additionally, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Ellis County Health Authority instructs all employees to remain at home if sick. Employees of private businesses and nonprofits with six or more employees in the County of Ellis can use their paid sick leave when they are sick or to care for sick family members.

10. This Order shall be effective until 11:00 a.m. on April 28, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.

11. The City of Red Oak must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the 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. 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 this Order.

## **IT IS SO ORDERED**

**MARK L. STANFILL  
MAYOR – RED OAK, TEXAS**

## **ELLIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Social Distancing Recommendations**

### **1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings**

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - 60 years old and older.
  - 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 of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Consider 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**

- Cancel or postpone 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 counter tops and handrails.
  - 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.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

## **5) Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

## **6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable**

- Long term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long term care facilities should screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- 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.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Visitors should not go to long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

## **7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Ellis County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- 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 guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a childcare plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- 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.
- 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.



**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

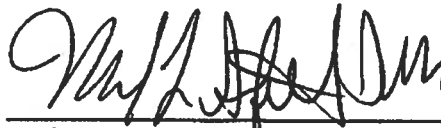
WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. In some cases, the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, reasonable measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout the city of Red Oak and Ellis County, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals, and property and, additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK L. STANFILL, DVM, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RED OAK, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM at 8:00 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, a local state of disaster; and:

1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the city of Red Oak, Texas, pursuant to section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to section 418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue through March 20, 2020 unless continued or renewed by the City Council of Red Oak, Texas.
3. Pursuant to section 418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to section 418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Red Oak emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to section 418.108(g) of the Government Code, the order issued on this date shall govern gatherings in the city as provided in the attached exhibit A.
6. I further direct the City Manager, or his designee, to undertake whatever reasonable action and to conduct whatever disaster mitigation measures necessary to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Red Oak.
7. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



Mark L. Stanfill, DVM  
Mayor, City of Red Oak



Robert E. Hager  
City Attorney



Dana Argumaniz  
City Secretary

## **ORDER OF MAYOR MARK L. STANFILL, DVM**

**DATE ORDER ISSUED: March 13, 2020**

**Summary:** The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order prohibits community gatherings, of 500 persons or more anywhere in the city of Red Oak beginning at 11 a.m. on March 13, 2020, and continuing seven days through 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, as defined by Section 3 herein. For all other gatherings, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly recommends following the social distancing protocols attached to this Order, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons. Additionally, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly urges high-risk individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to cancel, reschedule, or not attend events that will have or will likely have 10 or more people.

### **UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 108, RED OAK MAYOR MARK L. STANFILL, DVM, ORDERS:**

1. Effective as of 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, and continuing until 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, public or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3 below) are prohibited anywhere in the city of Red Oak.
2. In addition, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (“Health Authority”) strongly recommends canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons. The City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly urges organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. These recommendations are based on the social distancing practices attached to this Order as well as the “Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission” issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”). The City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge, and the Health Authority urges people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order in order to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
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 five-hundred (500) 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, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

- 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 in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, school or office tower, so long as 500 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Order also does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 500 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 500 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge, and the Health Authority strongly encourages compliance with the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.**
  - d. For purposes of clarity, a “Community Gathering” does not include the following so long as visitors are generally not within arm’s length of one another for extended periods:
    - i. (i) spaces where 500 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as airports, bus stations or terminals; (ii) office space or residential buildings; (iii) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm’s length of one another for extended periods; and (iv) hospitals and medical facilities. In all such settings, the City of Red Oak, the Office of the Ellis County Judge and the Health Authority recommends following the attached Social Distancing Recommendations, and personal hygiene measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible.
4. This Order shall be effective until 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
5. The City of Red Oak must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the City of Red Oak 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. 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 this Order.

## **IT IS SO ORDERED**

**MARK L. STANFILL, DVM  
MAYOR – RED OAK, TEXAS**

### **ELLIS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Social Distancing Recommendations**

#### **1) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings**

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - 60 years old and older.
  - 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 of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Consider 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 counter tops and hand rails.
  - 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.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling medium to large events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

#### **5) Transit: Cleaning and Protection**

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

**6) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable**

- Long term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long term care facilities should screen all staff and visitors for illness and turn away those with symptoms.
- 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.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms unless it is essential.
- Visitors should not go to long-term care facilities unless absolutely essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

**7) Everyone: Do your part**

The best way for all Ellis County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- 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 guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a childcare plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- 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.
- 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.