



Office of the Mayor  
Tommy Sloan

April 3, 2020

As expected, the number of COVID-19 cases is growing and increasingly closer to our county. As of today, there are NO Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Coleman County. Although this is wonderful news for our Community, I urge you not to underestimate the potential for exposure in public places. The goal of this community, the State, and the Nation is to “Slow the spread of COVID-19”. We are facing a public health emergency. Citizens of Coleman need to hear a clear message: Stay home unless you absolutely need to go out.

On March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott signed into law Executive Order No. GA-14 relating to the statewide continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster. This statewide order, which extends the disaster proclamation for Texas through April 30, 2020, was effective on April 2, 2020.

This order states, “...every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.”

This press release is issued to assist the public in understanding what is permitted and what is prohibited under Executive Order No. GA-14.

The Governor’s Order prohibits any business from being open to the public if it is not defined as an “essential service.” The list of essential services is described in a publication from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Governor’s Order and a copy of this publication can be found on our website at [www.cityofcolemantx.us](http://www.cityofcolemantx.us) under “COVID-19.” You should also consult [www.tdem.texas.gov/essential](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essential). All businesses are encouraged to review these lists and the advisory memorandums that discuss which jobs and businesses are “essential services.” If you feel that your business provides an “essential service,” you may complete the form on the TDEM website and ask for your business to be added to the list of “essential service” providers. However, until your business falls within those listed as an essential service, you should be closed to the public during the duration of the Governor’s Order, which is April 2 – 30, 2020.

The Governor’s Order also specifically provides that religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship are “essential services.” The Order goes on to specify that “If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.” Based on the Order, for the protection of the congregation, places of worship should conduct services by remote telework if possible, but if they cannot, they may now have services in person at the place of worship, as long as the congregation practices good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing of 6 feet or more.

The Governor's Order specifically lists that the following do not provide "essential services" and should be closed:

- Cosmetology Salons
- Gyms
- Massage Establishments
- Tattoo Studios
- Piercing Studios
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- Eating/Drinking *Inside* of Bars/Restaurants/Food Courts (the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of the executive order).

*With the exception of those specific businesses listed above that offer entertainment and non-essential personal services, no business is ordered to close. Please use your best judgement in making the best decisions for your business and your customers. You know your business operations best, and we hope you develop a plan of action to continue your operations in a safe manner that is consistent with federal, state, and local guidance.*

We understand that it may be difficult to determine whether your job or your business falls within the definition of an essential service. We will do our best to assist you in this determination. Questions relating to whether your job or business falls within the list of essential services may be directed to the following: City of Coleman: (325)-625-5114

Please be patient as we are anticipating a large volume of calls. If you are asking us to confirm that your job or business is essential, please be prepared to identify what particular category your business falls into according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security publication.

Also, we have been receiving a number of calls with concerns that certain businesses are not following applicable guidelines for employee or customer safety or not following the Governor's Order. Please direct these calls to the following: Texas Department of Public Safety: (844) 986-1093.

We have also placed on the City of Coleman's website an information piece that further explains the effect of the Governor's Order and helps to better define what is and is not an essential service.

Please remember that I issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020, that was continued indefinitely by the City Council, that specifically limits the size of social gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. A "social gathering" refers generally to conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and *other types of assemblies in accordance with CDC guidelines.*

The order that has been issued contains largely common sense directives:

- Minimize contact with other people unless they are providing or receiving “essential services,” such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, seeing a doctor, taking a jog or going to work at a critical job that can’t be done from home
- Those infected, those known to be exposed, and those exhibiting any of the known signs of the infections should seek medical care and stay home. Symptoms include fever higher than 100.4, cough, and shortness of breath
- Additionally, all businesses shall adopt measures to prevent the spread of this infection, including the use of social distancing and proper sanitization of workspaces.
- Further, businesses are advised to restrict all unnecessary workplace meetings and to transact business remotely where feasible.
- Individuals that are not exhibiting signs of infection are not prohibited from leaving their home, but travel is limited to work-related travel and to obtaining your essential needs. Additionally, traveling is permitted to reach outdoor recreation so long as proper social distancing is observed.

It is my hope that if we follow the Governor’s Order and the restrictions on social gatherings established by my Declaration, the citizens of Coleman can avoid being infected by COVID-19. If what we are doing today does not achieve the goal of slowing the spread of this virus, future restrictions will likely substantially impact businesses and restrict travel outside your home. This will inevitably have a profound impact on many families. To avoid this, please be safe, healthy and STAY AT HOME. Your voluntary compliance is sincerely requested and will help slow this pandemic.

Respectfully,



Tommy Sloan  
Mayor

**C**ommitted to our Residents, **O**rganizational Pride, **L**eading by Example, **E**xcellent Customer Service,  
**M**aking a Difference, **A**ccountable for our actions, **N**ever settle for less – We are **COLEMAN**