



FILED FOR RECORD  
AT 5:00 O'CLOCK P.M

MAR 09 2021

SYLVIA GARZA-PEREZ  
CAMERON COUNTY CLERK  
By S. Barron Deputy

***Eddie Treviño, Jr.***  
*County Judge*

**FOURTEENTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER  
INCLUDING CAMERON COUNTY EMPLOYEE MASK  
MANDATE AND REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC DOING BUSINESS IN COUNTY BUILDINGS AND  
FACILITIES TO WEAR MASKS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr., declared a state of local disaster on March 16, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), on March 21, 2020, the Cameron County Commissioners Court approved Cameron County Commissioners Court Order Extending Coronavirus/COVID-19 Disaster Declaration; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Cameron County Commissioners Court authorized the Cameron County Judge to continue to exercise the powers granted by the Texas Disaster Act of 1975; and

WHEREAS, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and DSHS, and by approval of the Cameron County Commissioners Court which authorized the Cameron County Judge to take such actions as are necessary in order to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Cameron County by the issuance of orders; and

WHEREAS on February 22, 2021, the Cameron County Judge issued a Thirteenth Emergency Management Order Including Bar Reopening and Limitations on Gatherings; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Fourteenth Emergency Management Order Including Cameron County Employee Mask Mandate and Requirement for Members of the Public Doing Business in County Buildings and Facilities to Wear Masks to remain as consistent and to harmonize with, to the extent possible, the executive orders of Governor

Greg Abbott and the current declarations of the Mayors of the cities in Cameron County (as extended or modified); and

WHEREAS, by the authority vested in the County Judge and as the Emergency Management Director for the County to continue to protect the health and safety of the community and address the developing and rapidly changing circumstances when presented by the current public health emergency, he hereby issued this Fourteenth Emergency Management Order Including Cameron County Employee Mask Mandate and Requirement for Members of the Public Doing Business in County Buildings and Facilities to Wear Masks ; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Order is to reduce vulnerability of people and the community to injury and loss of life resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rules and regulations and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act impose duties and obligations with respect to County Employees ; and

WHEREAS, while not directly applicable to Cameron County, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration imposes a duty to provide a safe work place for employees which duty in the circumstances of the COVID-19 crises also informs the requirements of this Order; and

WHEREAS, this Order is put in place for prompt and efficient care and treatment of persons victimized or threatened by COVID-19 through the authorization and provision for cooperation in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery thereby coordinating activities relating to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery by federal, state, and local entities; and

WHEREAS, this order will provide a setting conducive to the rapid and orderly restoration and rehabilitation of persons and property affected by COVID-19; and

THEREFORE AND ACCORDINGLY PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS DISASTER ACT OF 1975, THE COUNTY JUDGE HEREBY ISSUES THIS FOURTEENTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER INCLUDING CAMERON COUNTY EMPLOYEE MASK MANDATE AND REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DOING BUSINESS IN COUNTY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES TO WEAR MASKS AS FOLLOWS:

Effective as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, ("*Effective Date*"), and continuing until May 7, 2021, at 12:01 p.m. unless extended, modified, or terminated early by the County Judge or as otherwise indicated below:

## 1. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

- a. This Fourteenth Emergency Management Order Including Cameron County Employee Mask Mandate and Requirement for Members of the Public Doing Business in County Buildings and Facilities to Wear Masks continues the local disaster declaration and public health emergency for Cameron County for the period specified in this Order.
- b. This Order incorporates and adopts by reference all currently active orders issued/promulgated by the Governor relating to the COVID-19 disaster up to and including GA-34.

## 2. FACE COVERINGS – GENERAL PUBLIC

- a. All people 10 years or older should continue to wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth when in a public place or working in areas that involve close proximity with other coworkers until widespread vaccinations are available to all that want them, the population in Cameron County attains herd immunity to COVID-19 by vaccination or as otherwise recommended by the CDC, state or local health authorities. Face coverings may include homemade masks, scarfs, bandanas, or a handkerchief. Cameron County residents or visitors should continue to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while outside their home.
- b. BE ADVISED: Face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. Face coverings are *not* a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. All people should continue to follow CDC recommendations for how to wear and take off a mask.
- c. All people should:
  - i. Wash their hands frequently before you leave and return home;
  - ii. Practice Social Distance by staying at least six feet away from others;
  - iii. Avoid touching nose, face, or eyes;
  - iv. Not use disposable masks more than three times; and
  - v. Wash reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus.

- d. It is strongly recommended that people should not leave their home unless conducting essential activities or performing essential services or essential travel;

### 3. GATHERINGS

In conformity with GA-34 every business establishment in Cameron County may operate at up to 100% capacity *provided, however, that:*

“Area with high hospitalizations” means any Trauma Service Area that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalization patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less. A current list of areas with high hospitalizations will be maintained at [www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031).

- a. If Cameron County is deemed to be in an area of high hospitalization the County Judge may use COVID-19 related mitigation strategies; *provided, however, that:*
  - i. business and other establishments may not be required to operate at less than 50 percent of total occupancy, with no operating limits allowed to be imposed for religious services (including those conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship), public and private schools and institutions of higher education, and child-care services;
  - ii. no jurisdiction may impose confinement in jail as a penalty for violating any order issued in response to COVID-19; and
  - iii. no jurisdiction may impose a penalty of any kind for failure to wear a face covering or failure to mandate that customers or employees wear face coverings, except that a legally authorized official may act to enforce trespassing laws and remove violators at the request of a business establishment or other property owner. [EO-GA-34-opening-Texas-response-to-COVID-disaster-IMAGE-03-02-2021.pdf](#)

### 4. CAMERON COUNTY EMPLOYEES

- a. Cameron County employee must continue to use masks/facial coverings at all times during working hours except when eating or drinking.
- b. A Cameron County employee that has a good faith health related basis to claim an exemption to this requirement must be prepared to produce appropriate supporting evidence of any such condition. If the documentation supports the claim for

exemption, Cameron County will engage in an interactive process to consider appropriate reasonable accommodations on a case by case basis. If no reasonable accommodation can be provided it may be that a failure to adhere to the mask requirement may be considered a direct threat to the health and safety of other employees and the public at large.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DOING BUSINESS IN CAMERON COUNTY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

All members of the public doing business in Cameron County buildings and facilities must continue to use masks/facial coverings at all times while indoors. No services will be denied to members of the public.

- a. Members of the public continue to be encouraged to do business with or obtain services from the County by alternative available methods including by telephone, email and mail.
- b. In providing or obtaining services, every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) is strongly encouraged to use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health recommendations, found at [www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus).

6. SEVERABILITY

The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Order should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

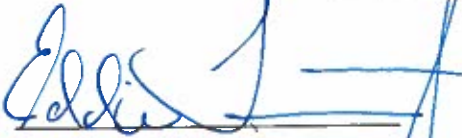
7. INTERPRETATION AND ADDITIONAL TERMS

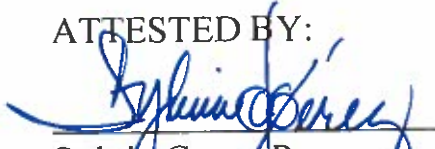
- a. To the greatest extent possible, this Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor.
- b. All provisions of the Governor's executive orders, either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Order, enforceable and is set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

NOTE: IF THE NUMBER OF POSITIVE CASES SPIKES OR SURGES, THE COUNTY JUDGE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO A MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDER.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES AN IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

SO ORDERED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

  
Eddie Treviño, Jr.  
Cameron County Judge

ATTESTED BY:  
  
Sylvia Garza-Perez  
Cameron County Clerk

