



**For Immediate Release**

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# **Harlingen Health Authority Issues Health Control Directive of Nursing Homes and Other Long Term Care Facilities**

**Harlingen, Texas**– Dr. Michael Mohun, Health Authority for the City of Harlingen, today issued a Health Control Directive to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community. The directive was issued under Section 81.082 of the Texas Health & Safety Code.

The Directive prohibits all nursing homes and long term health care facilities in Harlingen from sharing health care staff and support staff, as well as, the transfer of residents to other facilities. The directive also mandates that each facility immediately initiates the Screenings and Protocols of the Centers for Disease Control. Furthermore, each facility must provide a copy of its comprehensive COVID-19 response plan that includes:

- Rapid identification and management of ill residents
- Considerations for visitors and consultant staff
- Supplies and resources
- Sick leave policies and other occupational health considerations
- Education and training
- Surge
- for staffing, equipment and supplies, and postmortem care.

Dr. Mohun's directive is a result of the recent spike in COVID-19 positive cases which the City has reason to believe is being caused by the movement of health care staff and health care support staff moving between different nursing homes and long term health care facilities, as well as to and from local health care facilities.

## News From The City of Harlingen

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This directive is effective immediately and failure to comply could result in civil and criminal enforcement action.

Meantime, the City of Harlingen continues to take pro-active measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the community. As a reminder, the Cameron County Shelter in Place Order is still in place for the safety of the community. This means that people should stay at home unless traveling for essential services such as going to work, the doctor, or buying groceries. The orders also prohibit gatherings of 10 people or more in one location.

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