

LLANO COUNTY PRESS RELEASE



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COVID-19 (New Coronavirus)

LLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 20, 2020

Llano, TX- 3:00 PM-

On April 18, 2020 County Judge Ron Cunningham held a Special Called Commissioners Court Meeting to discuss Texas Governor Abbott's Friday April 17 actions with the issuance of new Executive Orders 15, 16 and 17 pertaining to COVID-19.

During the Commissioners Court, Judge Cunningham announced that the new state-wide orders were going to be implemented in a rolling schedule and Judge Cunningham voiced concern that the time and effort required to "de-conflict" Llano County's order versus the State's order could be detrimental to businesses in Llano County.

Judge Cunningham advised he planned to modify the Llano County Stay Home-Stay Safe order to expire at midnight on April 20, 2020 and that Llano County would adhere solely to Governor Abbott's Executive Orders which applies to all 254 counties of Texas.

The Llano County Stay Home-Stay Safe order had originally been extended on April 1 to last through April 30 in order to coincide with Gov. Abbott's GA-14 Executive Order, however; Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-16 supersedes GA-14. Additionally, GA-16 supersedes any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services or reopened services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order.

GA-15 will go into effect on April 22, 2020 and pertains to physicians and their ability to conduct additional types of surgeries which were previously restricted.

GA-16 will go into effect on Friday, April 24, 2020 and provides retailers of goods who were previously deemed "non-essential businesses" by DHS guidelines, to be able to begin offering delivery and curbside pickup for online and over-the-phone orders, similar to the way restaurant takeout has operated during the coronavirus pandemic. Employees will be required to work at least six feet apart, wear face coverings, and must be screened for symptoms before entering the business.

GA-17 goes into effect immediately and established a Strike Force to Open Texas. The Strike Force is comprised of key partners, including state leaders, state regulatory agencies, local governments and entities, and private-sector professionals, in studying and making recommendations of strategies and best practices for economic revitalization.

Judge Cunningham advised, "Everyone should understand that although Texans have been successful of slowing the spread of COVID-19, this virus continues to spread across Texas and it is highly probable, new cases will be diagnosed in Llano County". He added, "The bottom line is our residents, businesses, city and county governments have the desire and need to return to some type of normalcy. By practicing the disciplined guidance which has been provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services(DSHS) for prevention and response to COVID-19, we can all begin to find that new normal in our lives".

For citizens and businesses who have questions on Essential and Non-Essential businesses, the Texas Division of Emergency Management provides more information at <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

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