

Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services Facebook Page

Local Alert for Travis County March 24, 2020 at 12:40pm

A Stay At Home Order of Control was issued by Mayor Steve Adler and Judge Sarah Eckhardt, effective March 24, 2020 at 11:59pm. The Order requires residents to stay at home, except for essential activities and essential businesses, to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

The Order prohibits nonessential activities any social gatherings, restaurant dining, and visiting bars, entertainment venues, or gyms and fitness centers. The Order allows for essential activities including going to the grocery store, pharmacy, restaurants for take-out, receiving medical care, or taking your pet for a walk.

Examples of essential activities include:

- Health and safety: obtaining healthcare, emergency services, medical supplies, or medications
- Necessary supplies and services: obtaining groceries and food, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home
- Outdoor activity and exercise: engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, biking or running provided that individuals maintain at least six feet of social distancing
- Essential work and services: performing work at an essential business, which includes all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of critical infrastructure to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the public
- Care for others: caring for a family member, the elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons in another household

View the full Order here: <https://bit.ly/StayHomeWorkSafe>

Q: How long is the Order effective?

A: The Order goes into effect at 11:59pm Tuesday, March 24 and continues through April 13 unless modified, to further contain the spread of COVID-19 in Austin and Travis County.

Q: Who issued the Order? Is the entire State of Texas impacted by it?

A: Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt signed the Orders. The Orders only apply to Austin and Travis County, not the entire State of Texas. However, other Texas communities may have implemented similar orders and you should check with that city/jurisdiction before travelling to your destination.

Q: Why is there a Stay At Home Order?

A: There is substantial community transmission of the virus, which is easily spread between people. Many people who have it don't have symptoms or have mild symptoms. But they can easily spread the virus even if they don't feel very bad. Some who get the virus, especially those over 60 years old, those who have weak immune systems, and those with various medical conditions, can end up with serious complications and could need medical intervention such as oxygen or help breathing.

Because the virus spreads so easily, without intervention like this Order, many people could need medical attention, placing a strain on our hospital system. We may not have enough beds or equipment to adequately care for the most seriously ill. It is critical that we do everything in our power to slow down the spread of the virus and "flatten the curve" to avoid overwhelming our health care system. If this succeeds, it means that there will be health care available for those who get sick with COVID-19 or who need emergency medical care for accidents, heart attacks, strokes, and other serious medical conditions.

Q: Should I stock up on essentials such as food and medicines?

A: No. Grocery stores and pharmacies are considered essential businesses and remain accessible. We urge the public to continue their normal shopping routines.

Q: Will childcare or daycare facilities be shutdown?

A: Childcare facilities that serve essential businesses and essential employees are considered essential businesses and are not impacted by the Order. Essential businesses must comply with social distancing requirements.

Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 8 or fewer ("stable" means that the same 8 or fewer children are in the same group each day). Children shall not change from one group to another. If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other. Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.

Q: Will schools be shutdown?

A: Educational institutions that facilitate distance learning are considered essential businesses. More information on schools can be found on district websites