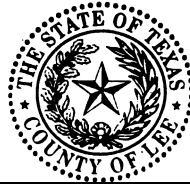


Paul E Fischer

County Judge
Lee County



County Courthouse
200 South Main, Rm. 107
Giddings, TX 78942
Phone: 979-542-3178
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JOINT STATEMENT OF LEE COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
(Includes Lee County, City of Giddings, City of Lexington)

April 1, 2020

On March 31, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household “except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services.” The Governor’s Order takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 2nd and continues through April 30, 2020. The Order effectively creates a uniform Shelter in Place order for the entire State of Texas.

Prior to the governor’s Order, Lee County Judge Paul Fischer, City of Giddings Mayor John Dowell, and City of Lexington Mayor Allen Retzlaff had already met and drafted Shelter in Place Orders for their jurisdictions. The governor’s action makes it unnecessary for the cities and county to enact a separate order.

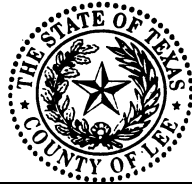
The governor’s Order effectively directs all individuals to shelter at their place of residence except to provide or obtain “essential services”. Attached to this Joint Statement is a copy of the “essential services” as defined in the Governor’s Order.

We anticipate that you, like us, will have questions about what is and is not permitted. Contact us and we will attempt to answer your questions.

Remember, the purpose of the Order is to minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. We encourage you to not look for excuses or loopholes to leave your home unless it is to provide or receive essential services. We hope that this will be a short-term inconvenience. It will be frustrating

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and an economic hardship for many. The goal is to minimize the spread of the virus by limiting the opportunity for exposure so that life can return to normalcy soon. All of us know or have loved ones who are in a more vulnerable at-risk category – over age 65, people living in nursing homes, people with underlying medical conditions, Ask yourself, is it worth leaving home to possibly become infected and then possibly infect someone you know or love and who is more vulnerable to the effects of the virus?

We urge the community not to panic. Please take this Order seriously, as COVID-19 is a real threat.

Shop locally – we still have no reported cases of Covid-19 infection in Lee County. Don't go to the store or restaurant in another county that has reported cases of infection. Use common sense.

Continue social distancing in everything you do. Try and find ways to work from home. Churches, conduct your services remotely. Essential businesses, practice good hygiene. Enable and enforce social distancing for your employees and customers. It is required! Violating the Governor's Order is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

Stay home and be safe.