

AMENDED OFFICIAL ORDER OF THE MAYOR

Date Amended Order Issued: March 17, 2020



The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients, and to safeguard public health and safety.

Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all members of the community, this Order strongly urges all individuals, high-risk or not, to cancel, reschedule, avoid and/or not attend events that will have, or will likely have, 10 or more people anywhere in the City of Benbrook, Texas, beginning at 4:00 p.m., March 17, 2020, as defined by Section 5 herein.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, SECTION 108, BENBROOK MAYOR JERRY B. DITTRICH ORDERS:

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**1. EFFECTIVE AS OF 4:00 p.m., March 17, 2020,** Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 5 below) are strongly discouraged anywhere in the City of Benbrook.

**2. CITY OF BENBROOK GUIDELINES**

The City of Benbrook strongly urges all individuals, high-risk or not, to cancel, reschedule, avoid and/or not attend any Community Gatherings that will have, or will likely have, 10 or more people anywhere in the city of Benbrook, Texas, beginning at 4:00 p.m., March 17, 2020, as defined by Section 5 herein.

**3. STATE, COUNTY, AND CDC GUIDELINES**

Tarrant County is strongly recommending a reduction in the occupancy limits of local businesses, reducing current allowed occupancy by 50%, or no more than 125 individuals, whichever is less. These occupancy limits apply to the following locations: restaurants, bars, event centers, gyms, hotel restaurants, retail stores, theatres, convenience stores, public buildings, plazas, churches, and shopping malls. Tarrant County is currently excluding grocery stores and airports from these strong recommendations, and they are asking these businesses to implement social distancing with customers or travelers to the greatest extent possible.

Further, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley and Tarrant County Public Health strongly urge organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. These recommendations are based on the “social distancing” practices included in this Order, as well as the [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#), issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**4. NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS**

The City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glenn Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health urge people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order, in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

**5. DEFINITION**

a. For purposes of this Order, a “Community Gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, gym, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.



b. An outdoor “Community Gathering” under this Order is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within six feet of one another for extended periods.

c. For purposes of clarity, a “Community Gathering” does not include the following so long as visitors are generally not within six feet of one another for extended periods:

i. (i) office space, schools, or residential buildings; (ii) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments, not including restaurants with and without drive-in or drive-through services and private clubs, where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within six feet of one another for extended periods; and (iii) medical facilities. In all such settings, the Office of the Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley and the Tarrant County Public Health recommends following the above Social Distancing Recommendations, and personal hygiene measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible.

For any gathering covered by this subsection c., the City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly encourage organizers and participants to provide hand sanitizer and tissues, perform regular cleaning/disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces, and comply with the CDC guidelines on social distancing.

The [CDC defines social distancing](#) as “remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.”

## 6. DURATION

This Order shall be effective until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended, pursuant to applicable law.

## 7. DISTRIBUTION

The City of Benbrook must promptly post this order on the City website and make printed copies available to the public. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

## 8. VALIDITY AND APPLICATION

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

SIGNED THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry B. Dittrich".

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Jerry B. Dittrich, Benbrook Mayor

Original on file