



For Immediate Release
April 1, 2020

Harrison County Clarifies Essential Businesses

In response to inquiries from our community regarding the Shelter in Place Orders issued on March 31, 2020, Harrison County Judge Chad Sims has provided a list of essential vs. nonessential businesses and/or services in Harrison County, including the City of Hallsville.

Essential Businesses / Services

Healthcare Operations

- Hospitals, Clinics and Pharmacies
- Veterinarians

Grocery Stores

- Grocery Stores, Certified Farmers' Markets, Farm and Produce Stands, and Supermarkets
- Food Banks
- Convenience Stores
- Other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products)
- Liquor Stores
- Some Retail: Stores that also sell groceries or sell supplies necessary for operation of essential businesses, working for home, or maintenance of residences. Example: electronics, appliances, health care products, office supplies.

Food Cultivation

- Farming
- Livestock
- Fishing

Social Services

- Businesses or non-profit organizations that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals

Media

- Newspapers, Television, Radio, and Other Media Services

Vehicles

- Gas Stations
- Auto Sales
- Auto Supply
- Auto Repair
- Car Wash & Mobile Detailing

Financial Institutions

- Banks
- Other Financial Institutions/Lending

Property Maintenance

- Hardware Stores and Construction Supply Stores
- HVAC Repairs, Plumbers, Electricians and Exterminators
- Lawn Maintenance
- Pool Service
- Other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses

Mailing

- Mailing Services, Shipping Services, and P.O. Boxes

Clothes Cleaning

- Laundromats, Dry Cleaners, and Laundry Service Providers

Restaurants

- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out.
- Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up or take-away basis only.
- Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site.

E-Commerce

- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences

Supplying Essential Business support

- Businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate
- Printers and Promotional Products

- Hotels, motels and RV parks

Transportation

- Airlines
- Taxis
- Other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in the Order

Care Facilities

- Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children
- Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted

Professional Services

- Legal
- Bail bonds
- Accounting
- Insurance
- Real Estate Services, Architectural, Appraisal, Survey, and Title Services

Vital Infrastructure

- Utilities
- Telecommunications
- Trash Collection and Disposal
- Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS/Ambulance, Corrections, Dispatch
- Animal Shelters
- Governmental Employees who have not been specifically deemed non-essential and sent home by the government entity

Societal Maintenance

- Janitorial and Maintenance Services
- Funeral Industry
- Defense Industry
- Space and Technology Industry
- Technology Support
- Scientific Research

Religious Services with Social Distancing of 6' between individuals and gatherings of no more than 10 people

- Provided in Residences
- Healthcare Operations
- Funerals
- Provided online while being broadcast from a religious facility

Non-Essential Businesses Prohibited from Operation

All businesses not specifically listed as essential above are considered non-essential and are to be closed at all times.

A partial list is shown below:

Personal Hygiene

- Hair Salons and Barber Shops
- Nail Salons and Spas
- Tattoo Parlors
- Tanning Studios
- Massage Studios

Other Retail

- Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores
- Cosmetics, Beauty Supplies, and Perfume Stores
- Clothing Stores & Boutiques
- Shoe Stores
- Jewelry, Luggage, and Leather Goods Stores
- Sporting Goods Stores
- Hobby Stores and Game Stores
- Framing Stores
- Book Stores
- Florists

Entertainment

- Movie Theaters
- Museums
- Indoor Recreation, Game Rooms & Children's Gyms
- Ranches & Camps
- Concert and Special Event Venues

Lifestyle

- Gyms
- Martial Arts Studios
- Yoga Studios
- Restaurants (Dine in), Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this Order commits a Class B Misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to

\$1,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days, and each day or portion of a day that such a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Harrison County and the City of Hallsville are following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines and recommendations on the steps our community can take to help prevent catching or spreading the coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a situation that continues to evolve, and we will do our best to keep our citizens informed of the latest information.

Harrison County and the City of Hallsville urge our community to practice healthy habits including:

1. Restrict physical contact and publicly used areas.
2. Maintain Social Distancing with a safe distance of six (6') feet between individuals.
3. Every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of 10 or more per Executive Order of Governor Abbott.
4. Residents should not visit nursing homes, retirement, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
5. In accordance with the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors. Residents may still utilize drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options through the Executive Order.
6. Regularly wash hands with warm soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
7. Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
8. If soap is not available, use at least a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
9. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. All persons should remain in the home if one person in the home exhibits symptoms

If you are experiencing fever, cough or difficulty breathing, been exposed to a sick traveler or been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, please contact your healthcare provider immediately. Inform your physician or emergency department of your symptoms to prevent any potential spread.

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