

Department of Public Health

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Health Authority COVID-19 Prevention Orders for El Paso City- County

March 17, 2020

Due to COVID-19's presence in El Paso County, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health Public Health Authority is issuing temporary orders to mitigate and slow down the spread of the disease in El Paso City-County. These approaches are believed to be necessary to preserve health and well-being of our community members and to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety.

Social distancing is proven to be essential part of the control measure against a respiratory illness such as COVID-19. We understand the social and economic impact of this order, but it is believed to be a necessary action to take.

This order is to be Effective as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 effective immediately and continuing until April 1, 2020 at 08:00 am MST.

- Bars, lounges, taverns, arcades and night clubs shall close.
- Restaurants shall limit the amount of people on their premises at one time to half of their designated seating maximum occupancy and ensure tables are at least 6ft apart from each other.
- Restaurants shall disinfect and sanitize commonly touched surfaces and non-food contact surfaces at least once every hour.
- Restaurants shall not allow parties of more than 6 people in one table.
- Restaurants with a bar(s) (no more than 50% of sales derived from alcohol) must discontinue the use of the bar section to minimize close contact of patrons.
- Tables within bar area have to be spaced a minimum of 6 ft between tables and have to serve food.
- Discourage long stays at restaurants establishments.



Robert Resendes – Public Health Director

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 Restaurants must adopt and implement a screening policy for food handlers and all employees, and establish protocols for employee exclusion if they develop the following symptoms:

- Fever of greater than 100°F
- Cough and shortness of breath
- Make available and visible COVID-19 prevention print materials in your business



Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX



