

From: Matagorda County
To: News Media
Reference: Temporary Closure of County Parks, Community Centers, Fairgrounds and County Beach Access Areas
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020

MATAGORDA COUNTY TEMPORARILY CLOSES COUNTY PARKS, COMMUNITY CENTERS, FAIRGROUNDS AND COUNTY BEACH ACCESS AREAS

Effective today, March 19, 2020, Matagorda County Commissioners Court has ordered the cancellation of all public activities on County owned property until further notice. This includes community centers, fire department buildings, parks, fairgrounds. The track at Heffelfinger Park in Blessing is open for walkers/joggers in pairs. Matagorda County beach line public access points (including, but not limited to, Matagorda and Sargent) will be closed by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020. Matagorda County will not be accepting reservations for rentals for these facilities.

The closure of the parks, community centers, fairgrounds and beach accesses are being undertaken out of an abundance of caution for the protection of the public due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Matagorda County will continue to monitor the situation and will continue to take appropriate actions.

The Court recommends that all industry, especially restaurants and bars, follow the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations regarding the use of drive-thru, curbside pickup, and/or delivery options. Additionally, limit unnecessary travel, shopping, and social visits. Do not visit nursing homes, retirement, or long-term care facilities unless providing critical assistance. Please practice good hygiene by washing your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, sneeze and cough into a tissue and disinfect frequently used items and surfaces regularly.

The Court strongly encourages the cancellation of all events, public or private, that consist of 10 or more people. The County's top priority is the safety and well-being of our residents and feels that taking these precautionary measures will help in that endeavor. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact the County Judge's office at (979) 244-7605 or the Emergency Management Coordinator, Amanda Campos, at (979) 323-0707.

****Edited to include Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-08
issued at 11:59 a.m. today****

**The recommendation made by the Matagorda Commissioners Court as to
CDC recommendations this morning is officially ordered by the Governor.**

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

Order No. 1 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Order No. 2 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4 In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.”