



**Juan Carlos Guerra**  
**County Judge**

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**May 8, 2020**

Jim Hogg County Residents:

## **Communication on Coronavirus - COVID-19**

(Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA- 18)

### **Guidance on Social Gatherings / Receptions**

There have been many questions regarding social gatherings and receptions for the upcoming Mother's Day and Graduation Celebrations. On the Governor's Executive Order GA-18 dated April 27, 2020, it states that social gatherings should be minimized and in-person contact with people who are not from the same household should also be minimized. Governor Abbott's plan to Re-Open Texas later offered Guidance and Protocols for Wedding Receptions and Wedding Venues.

***Since the Governor's Order does not specifically offer guidance and protocols for social gatherings, we will offer the Guidance and Protocols that the Texas Department of State Health Services has given for Wedding Venues and Wedding Attendees. The people hosting an event should refer to CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION VENUES and the people attending an event should refer to CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION ATTENDEES.***

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. **The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.**

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. ***Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.***

Thank you,

Juan Carlos Guerra  
Jim Hogg County Judge



☒ **CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION VENUES**

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*A wedding reception held in a restaurant should follow the restaurant protocols. Wedding reception services held at other indoor locations are limited to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy. Wedding receptions held outside are strongly recommended and are not subject to an occupancy limit. Employees and contractors of the wedding reception venue are not counted towards the 25% occupancy limitation*

*The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all wedding reception venues choosing to operate in Texas. Those venues may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and attendees.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Wedding reception venues should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Those venues should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.*

**Health protocols for serving your attendees:**

- ☐ Parties maintain at least 6 feet distance apart from other parties at all times, including while waiting to be seated at the reception.
- ☐ Make a hand sanitizing station available upon entry to the reception.
- ☐ No tables of more than 6 people.
- ☐ Dining:
  - ☐ Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table
  - ☐ Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions.
  - ☐ Use disposable menus (new for each patron)
  - ☐ If a buffet is offered, venue employees and/or contractors serve the food to attendees.





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### Health protocols for your employees and contractors:

- ☐ Train all employees and contractors on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- ☐ Screen employees and contractors before coming into the venue:
  - ☐ Send home any employee or contractor who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- ☐ Do not allow employees or contractors with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
  - In the case of an employee or contractor who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
  - In the case of an employee or contractor who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
  - If the employee or contractor has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- ☐ Do not allow an employee or contractor with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- ☐ Have employees and contractors wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the venue, and between interactions with attendees.



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- ☐ Have employees and contractors maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced
- ☐ Consistent with the actions taken by many businesses across the state, consider having all employees and contractors wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

### **Health protocols for your facilities:**

- ☐ Consider having an employee or contractor manage and control access to the venue, including opening doors to prevent attendees from touching door handles.
- ☐ Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, and chairs.
- ☐ Regularly and frequently clean restrooms, and document the cleanings.
- ☐ Disinfect any items that come into contact with attendees.
- ☐ Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, contractors, and attendees.
- ☐ Place readily visible signage at the venue to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- ☐ Clean and disinfect the area used for dining (table, etc.) after each group of attendees depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.
- ☐ Clean and sanitize the venue daily.
- ☐ For venues with more than 10 employees or contractors present at one time, consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring the health protocols adopted by the venue are being successfully implemented and followed.





☒ **CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION ATTENDEES**

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*The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all wedding reception attendees in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.*

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.*

*Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.*

**Health protocols for wedding reception attendees:**

- ☐ Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same party. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering when not sitting at the table, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- ☐ Self-screen before going into the reception for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - ☐ Cough
  - ☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - ☐ Chills
  - ☐ Repeated shaking with chills
  - ☐ Muscle pain
  - ☐ Headache
  - ☐ Sore throat
  - ☐ Loss of taste or smell
  - ☐ Diarrhea
  - ☐ Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - ☐ Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- ☐ Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a reception and after any interaction with employees, other attendees, or items in the venue.
- ☐ No tables of more than 6 people.
- ☐ Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when not at the table, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.
- ☐ Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. To the extent possible, avoid contact within 6 feet with individuals aged 65 and older. Individuals aged 65 and older should stay at home as much as possible.