

FILED FOR RECORD

AT 5:50 O'CLOCK P. M.

DATE 1/3/22

ZONIA G. MORALES

CLERK COUNTY COURT JIM HOGG CO. TEXAS
BY Zonia G. Morales ~~CLERK~~



**EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING CONTINUED RESPONSE TO LOCAL DISASTER
AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
RELATED TO COVID-19 VARIANTS FOR JIM HOGG COUNTY, TEXAS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Jim Hogg County Judge Juan Carlos Guerra declared a state of local disaster on March 18, 2020 due to imminent threat arising from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Texas Government Code 418.108(b), the Jim Hogg County Commissioners Court approved Orders continuing the Declaration of State of Local Disaster for Jim Hogg County;

WHEREAS, there currently still exists a declaration of public health disaster in and for the State of Texas as declared by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the transmission of COVID-19 has not dissipated but remains a significant threat to the health and safety of the Jim Hogg County Community;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has mutated and developed more contagious strains, including the Delta and Omicron variants. The Delta and Omicron variants have resulted in increased rates of infection and hospitalization throughout the State of Texas;

WHEREAS, the Director for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), Rochelle Walensky, stated the "*Omicron variant is spreading quickly and has the potential to impact all facets of our society.*";

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services ("DSHS") reports the Delta and Omicron variants show evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), and/or reduced effectiveness of tests, treatments, or vaccines;

WHEREAS, the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has designated Jim Hogg County as a medically underserved area;

WHEREAS, the Jim Hogg County local health disaster has been aggravated by the introduction and spread of the Delta and Omicron variants. Consistent with recommendations from DSHS and CDC, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be continued in order to mitigate the spread and the effects of the existing public health emergency caused by the Delta and Omicron and to facilitate a response to the public health presented by COVID-19 in Jim Hogg County caused by the Delta and Omicron COVID-19 variants;

WHEREAS, the intent of this Executive Order is to remain consistent with executive orders issued by Governor Greg Abbott;

WHEREAS, a County Judge is authorized to control ingress to and egress from a disaster area and control the movement of persons and occupancy and premises on an appropriate local scale in accordance with Section 418.108(g); and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order is necessary to protect the lives, health, welfare, and safety of the County's residents from the rapidly changing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those caused by the Delta and Omicron variants.

THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 418.108, JIM HOGG COUNTY JUDGE JUAN CARLOS GUERRA HEREBY ISSUES THIS ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Public Health Emergency.** That this Executive Order shall continue the local disaster declaration and public health emergency for Jim Hogg County for the period specified in this Executive Order and shall incorporate and adopt the most recent executive orders, proclamations or declarations issued by Governor Greg Abbott and any subsequent orders, proclamations or declarations issued by the Governor relating to the COVID-19 disaster, to the extent the Governor's orders are not superseded by any other federal or state law. This Executive Order further identifies measures that are necessary to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, especially the Delta and Omicron variants, in Jim Hogg County.
2. **Public and Private Gatherings.** All public and private indoor gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or dwelling unit **shall be avoided**. Businesses and other establishments may operate as permitted by Executive Order GA-38 issued on July 29, 2021 by Governor Abbott.
3. **Face Coverings Strongly Urged.** It is strongly urged that all people 2 years or older wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth in indoor public settings. No civil or criminal penalty will be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face mask.

Federal and state public health authorities recognize that face masks are a secondary strategy to other COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The wearing of a face mask is not a

replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick, or quarantining after exposure to a person who is positive for COVID-19. It is strongly recommended that all County residents adhere to the following additional health and safety guidance recommended by the CDC:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine. More information on how to find a vaccine can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>
- Stay 6 feet apart from persons who do not live with you.
- Avoid crowded and poorly ventilated indoor settings.
- Test to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus to others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

4. **Isolation Period Following Confirmed Positive for COVID-19.** Although the CDC recently updated its guidance relating to the period of time persons should isolate following a COVID-19 positive test result, Jim Hogg County residents are strongly urged to isolate for a period of not less than 10 days.
5. **Effect.** This Order shall be in effect beginning at 12:01AM on January 4, 2022, and continuing until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law. This Order supplements prior Orders, and in the event of a conflict or apparent conflict between the Orders, this Order shall be in control. The County of Jim Hogg must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Jim Hogg County website.

Severability. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Executive Order are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Executive Order should be declared invalid by the final judgment or decree of any court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

ORDERED this 3rd day of January 2022.

ATTEST:

Zonia Morales
Zonia Morales, Jim Hogg County Clerk

J. C. Guerra
Juan Carlos Guerra, Jim Hogg County Judge

