



Communications & Marketing

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Felipe Romero

✉ felipe.romero@cob.us

📞 956-547-6505

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TREY MENDEZ

Brownsville Response to COVID-19 (March 17, 2020)

Dear Brownsville citizens:

As our community, State and Nation grapple with the impact of COVID-19, I want to share with you how the City of Brownsville is responding to the changes demanded by public health best practices. At the city, our top priority is the health and safety of our community and our staff.

There is no need to panic. However, there is a profound need to prepare.

I urge all of you to think of your family, neighbors and community. The elderly and individuals with chronic conditions such as heart disease, respiratory disorders, and diabetes are especially vulnerable. Because of this, we must act as a community to address the virus.

Today, the City of Brownsville declared a state of emergency in response to the public health emergency. The lessons we are learning from communities across the nation and the globe is that aggressive measures implemented sooner rather than later help to protect our community, and our community's most vulnerable members.

Importantly, critical city services such as fire and police protection, sanitation, and water and wastewater services will not be disrupted. When you turn on your tap to fill a glass with fresh water, that water is and will remain drinkable. When you call first responders, they will respond.

However, with the order passed as of 12:00 PM CST, March 17, 2020, the city is taking the following steps that will alter how we go about our daily lives:

- RESTAURANTS and bars, effective March 18, 2020, restaurants and bars shall be limited to 50 percent of occupancy in order to comply with social distancing.
- RESTAURANTS and bars, delivery and takeout is strongly encouraged. Downtown City metered parking will be immediately suspended in order to support these measures. Parking areas within Shopping Areas are also strongly encouraged to create takeout and delivery designated parking spaces.
- Places of worship, movie theaters and gymnasiums shall be limited to 50 percent of their occupancy and comply with social distancing.



956-547-6505



felipe.romero@cob.us



City Hall, 2nd Floor
1001 E Elizabeth Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520



Communications & Marketing

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Felipe Romero

✉ felipe.romero@cob.us

📞 956-547-6505

- Private or “Community Gatherings” of individuals over 50 are banned until further notice. “Community Gatherings” does not include spaces where 50 or more persons may be in transit or buses, trains or airplanes; or waiting for transit, such as airports, bus stops or terminals. In addition, “Community Gatherings” does not include the following spaces where 50 or more persons may congregate, so as long as visitors are generally within arm’s length of one another for extended periods: i. Office Space, Grocery Stores, Shopping Malls, Movie, Hospitals and Medical Offices and Facilities.
- Bingo establishments are closed.
- Child and adult day care centers, effective March 18, 2020, shall be limited to 50 occupants or 50 percent of their legal occupancy, whichever is lower.
- All schools are closed, effective immediately.
- All City libraries are closed, effective immediately.
- All City of Brownsville residents are strongly encouraged to use online services and drive-thru services while doing business with the City.
- Brownsville bus service, BMetro will be implementing social distancing measures.
- The Brownsville/South Padre Island Airport will limit access into the Terminal Building to ticketed passengers only.
- City events are cancelled effectively on March 17, 2020 until further notice.
- General Public and Private Community Events are cancelled effectively on March 17, 2020 until further notice.
- While the City Commission will continue to meet in person, we strongly encourage members of the public not to attend the meetings, and instead watch proceedings on www.cob.us.
- Meetings of city advisory boards, commissions and bureaus are cancelled effective March 17, 2020 until further notice.
- The City Manager will be working with city staff to implement a teleworking plan for employees.



956-547-6505



felipe.romero@cob.us



City Hall, 2nd Floor
1001 E Elizabeth Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520



Communications & Marketing

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Felipe Romero

✉ felipe.romero@cob.us

📞 956-547-6505

- The City encourages members of the public to seek city services through the city's website or by telephone.
- Private events on city facilities are cancelled effective March 17, 2020 until further notice. Fees and deposits for the facility rentals will be refunded or applied toward a rescheduled event.
- The Peace Officers, City of Brownsville Health Inspectors, Code Enforcement/Ordinance Officers/Inspectors, Traffic Specialists and Brownsville Fire Marshal are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 in accordance with the City of Brownsville Code of Ordinances Chapter 1 – Section 1.13 General Penalty.

Unless otherwise stated, these measures shall be in place until March 24, 2020. I also want to reassure you that the city's leadership team is meeting daily, and implementing the latest guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control, the Texas Department of State Health Services and Cameron County Health Department to coordinate our community's response to the COVID-19 virus.

We understand the profound social and economic impact that the changes outlined above will have on you, your family and local businesses. I urge you to continue to shop locally, tip service providers, such as deliver, drivers generously, and if you are able, donate to a local charity of your choice.

Sincerely,

Mayor Trey Mendez

For the most up-to-date information on how City of Brownsville is handling the rapidly changing circumstances, please visit our website at <https://www.cob.us/2066/Coronavirus-Updates>

###



956-547-6505



felipe.romero@cob.us



City Hall, 2nd Floor
1001 E Elizabeth Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520