



**FILED FOR RECORD**  
AT 3:09 O'CLOCK P M

APR 07 2020

*Eddie Treviño, Jr.*  
County Judge

Sylvia Garza-Perez  
CAMERON COUNTY CLERK  
By *[Signature]* Deputy

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER REGARDING NURSING HOME  
AND OTHER LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with the National Emergency Declaration issued by President Trump and Governor Abbott's Declaration of Disaster on March 13, 2020, and subsequent National and State Declarations and guidance and out of an abundance of caution to limit or reduce the spread of COVID-19 to Cameron County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Judge issued a First Amended Emergency Management Order with Mandatory Shelter in Place on March 25, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Judge has consulted with the Cameron County Health Authority, the Cameron County Health Administrator and state health officials with respect to Long-Term Care Facilities in connection with a particular need.

**THEREFORE**, the County Judge in his authority pursuant to the Texas Government Code §418 et seq., hereby issues the following Emergency Management Order Regarding Long-Term Care Facilities:

**THIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER REGARDING LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES IS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE FIRST AMENDED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER WITH MANDATORY COUNTYWIDE SHELTER IN PLACE**

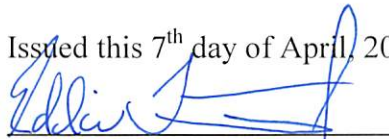
**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES AN IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH.**

1. This Order shall become effective at 12:01a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, or until it is rescinded in writing by the Cameron County Judge.
2. This Order applies to all Long-Term Care Facilities ("LTCFs") in Cameron County, Texas. All LTCFs must follow guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control CDC, The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Cameron County Health Authority and Public Health Department.

3. If a resident of an LTCF is identified with a COVID-19 diagnosis, the LTCF shall do the following:
  - a. Immediately notify all staff (from all levels of care or any job description within the LTCF) that a resident has been diagnosed with COVID-19. This notification shall be done in staff meetings compliant with CDC guidelines, by phone or text message or email.
  - b. All residents (in all levels of care within the LTCF) who are mentally competent shall be informed immediately that a resident has been diagnosed with COVID-19. If the LTCF learns of the diagnosis while the resident is asleep, the resident shall be notified immediately after they wake. The LTCF shall insure that the notification is documented and maintained in its records, including noting the time and method of delivery of the notification.
  - c. Family members and responsible parties of all residents (in all levels of care within a facility with the exception of independent living) shall be informed immediately by phone, text message, or email.
  - d. A notification statement of diagnosis of COVID-19 in a resident shall also be posted for public access within 30 minutes of identification of a case. The notice shall be posted at the main entrance to the LTCF and prominently displayed on the LTCF's website. This website posting must be on the LTCF's local webpage in addition to the LTCF's corporate website.
  - e. Proof of the completion of all notifications in 3(a)-3(d) shall be provided to Cameron County Public Health within six business hours of the identification of a resident's diagnosis of COVID-19. For purposes of this subsection, business hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
4. If an LTCF has any resident with a diagnoses of COVID-19, the LTCF shall institute the following measures within the same level of care:
  - a. All health care personnel must wear facemasks while in the LTCF and consider having all health care personnel wear all recommended personal protective equipment ("PPE") (gown, gloves, eye protection, appropriate respirators or, if not available, a facemask) for the care of all residents, regardless of presence of symptoms. The LTCF should also implement protocols for extended use of eye protection and facemasks. The LTCF shall insure that all health care personnel must have temperature and symptom checks prior to each shift. If a worker has a temperature above 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit, then they are prohibited from going to work and must remain at their residence;
  - b. The facility will be closed to new admissions and will also close all services, including outpatient rehabilitation.
  - c. LTCF shall keep a list of all employees who have worked at any other LTCFs, including the name and contact information for the administrator at the other LTCF.
5. Any standards prohibiting improper transfer of patients will be strictly enforced.

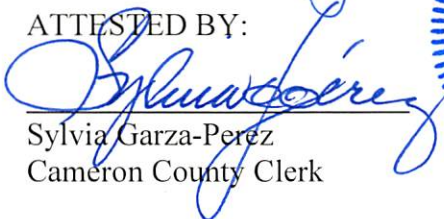
6. If an LTCF has any resident with a diagnosis of COVID-19, the LTCF may allow transfer of a resident to homecare. In the case of such a transfer, the LTCF must provide a copy of this order to those in the household to which the resident is being transferred. Those persons in the household to which the resident is transferred are ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function, except for workers included in Essential Healthcare Operations who may continue to work in accordance with CDC guidance.
  - a) **Essential Health Care Operations means:**  
A healthcare provider or facility including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services including substance abuse facilities, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous and related associations, and veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals.
7. If a LTCF has any resident with a diagnosis of COVID-19, the LTCF may allow transfer of a resident to a hospital, but only after the LTCF has provided notice to the receiving hospital that the patient is coming from a LTCF with identified COVID-19. If the patient is transferred by ambulance, the LTCF must also provide notice to the ambulance providers that the patient is coming from a LTCF with identified COVID-19.
8. Nursing facilities and LTCFs can accept convalescing (recovering) patients with COVID-19 if they are no longer deemed infectious as per CDC and local health authority guidelines.
9. The LTCF shall inform the HHSC regulatory agency of all COVID-19 cases, the same day of identification of each new case. The notification must also include a tally of total cases.
10. Cameron County must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the Cameron County and Cameron County Public Health websites. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is required to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

Issued this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020 at 2:43 p.m.



Eddie Treviño, Jr.  
Cameron County Judge

ATTESTED BY:



Sylvia Garza-Perez  
Cameron County Clerk

