



COVID-19 Response for Marion County

On March 19, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order mandating Texans take action to combat the spread of the coronavirus. It is imperative that Marion County residents, businesses, and organizations follow those mandates and take extensive mitigation activities. Additionally, Marion County, City of Jefferson, and area agencies are working together in a collaborative task force to address our community response to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The goals for using mitigation strategies for Marion County at this time are to protect:

- *Individuals at risk for severe illness, including persons of any age with underlying health conditions including immune suppression and especially seniors with underlying health conditions.*
- *The healthcare workforce and critical infrastructure workforces.*

Local mitigation implementation emphasizes:

- *Emphasizing individual responsibility for implementation of recommended personal-level actions.*
- *Empowering businesses, schools, and community organizations to implement recommended actions.*
- *Focusing on settings that provide critical services to implement recommended actions to protect critical infrastructure and individuals at risk of severe disease.*
- *Minimizing disruptions to daily life to the extent possible.*

We are committed to following Governor Abbott's directive. We recognize that additional measures may be needed by state and local officials as we receive additional data from state and regional agencies.

Emergency Management Coordinator David Capps

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Marion County Judge Leward J. LaFleur

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Mayor Pro Tem Victor Perot

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Phase 1: Community mitigation strategies for Marion County Current status as of 3/19/2020

Phase 1 guidelines are voluntary but highly encouraged based on current data.

Every Individual and Family

- If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
- If your children are sick, keep them at home. Do not send them to school or daycare. Contact your medical provider.
- If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.
- If you are an older person (e.g. over 65), stay at home and away from other people.
- Monitor local information about COVID-19 in your community.
- Practice personal protective measures and good hygiene.
 - Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
 - Avoid touching your face.
 - Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
 - Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
- Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts - use drive-thru, pick-up, or delivery options.
- Avoid social gatherings of large groups. *On 3/16/20, the President recommended avoiding more than 10 people for the next fifteen days. On 3/15/20, the CDC recommended avoiding gatherings of more than 50 people for the next eight weeks.*
- Put a household plan into action according to CDC mitigation strategies. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>
- Individuals at risk of severe illness should stay at home avoiding gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel, church attendance, social events with 10 or more people.
- Other individuals without such risk factors should adapt to disruptions in routine activities (e.g., school and/or work closures) by using remote participation such as telework where feasible or online classes or home study (E-learning).

It should be noted that any current state or federal health directives supersede any less restrictive guidelines listed herein.

Phase 1: continued**Every School/childcare**

- Schools should arrange for students at risk of severe illness to be able to implement individual plans for distance learning, e-learning, etc.
- Implement social distancing measures, e.g.:
 - Cancel large gatherings (e.g., assemblies)
 - Postpone athletic contests (basketball, football games) in the absence of spectators
 - Limit all classroom mixing
 - Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger recess, entry/dismissal times)
 - Limit inter-school interactions of all types
 - Consider distance learning in schools with higher risk populations (e.g., greater proportion of special needs children)
- Regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening on arrival at school) of students, staff, and visitors.
- Short-term dismissals for school and extracurricular activities as needed (e.g., if cases in staff/students) for cleaning and contact tracing.
- Extend spring break by an additional two weeks to be made up at the end of the standard term.
- Cancellation of all school-associated congregations, particularly those with participation of high-risk individuals.
- Consider implementing distance learning if feasible.

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Phase 1: continued**Every assisted living facility and adult day programs**

- Implement social distancing measures, e.g.:
 - Cancel large gatherings (e.g., group social events with 10 or more people)
 - Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger meal, activity, arrival/departure times)
 - Limit programs with external staff
- Administer daily, upon arrival, temperature and respiratory symptom screening of attendees, staff.
- Staff should wear masks and wash hands thoroughly before entering and after exit of the room of inhabitants.
- Consider suspension of new admissions to facilities.
- Short-term closures as needed (e.g., if cases in staff, residents or clients who live elsewhere) for cleaning and contact tracing.
- Longer-term closure or quarantine of the facility until the situation resolves.
- Suspend visitor access but arrange for alternate means for family members to communicate (e.g., staff assist with phone calls or video conferences with visitors).
- Exceptions for end-of-life family visits need to be considered, with limited access of visitors to other areas or people in the facility and these patients should be in a different area to ensure other clients are not exposed to outside guests.

Every Workplace

- Encourage staff to telework.
- Expand sick leave policies.
- Implement social distancing measures, e.g.:
 - Spacing workers at the worksite
 - Staggering work schedules
 - Decreasing social contacts in the workplace (limit in-person meetings)
 - All break areas must accommodate distancing with regular disinfection of all eating surfaces
- Eliminate large work-related gatherings (e.g., staff meetings, after-work functions)
- Postpone non-essential work travel.
- Regular health checks on arrival each day (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of staff and visitors entering buildings.
- Implement extended telework arrangements (when feasible).
- Ensure flexible leave policies for staff who need to stay home due to school/childcare dismissals and to encourage individuals to stay home if they are sick.
- Cancel work-sponsored conferences, trade shows, etc.

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Phase 1: continued**Every Community and Faith-based Organization**

- Implement social distancing. Reduce activities (e.g., religious services, group congregation), especially for organizations with individuals at risk of severe illness. Consider offering video/audio of events.
- Determine methods to continue providing support services to individuals at risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures.
- Cancel large gatherings or move to smaller groupings. As of 3/15/2020, the current CDC recommendation is no groups of 50 or more for 8 weeks. As of 3/16/2020, the President advised avoiding social gathering in groups of more than 10 people.
- Professional and college sporting events as well as concerts or any large crowd entertainment events should be cancelled or broadcast without audience participation.
- For organizations that serve high-risk communities, cancel gatherings of more than 10 people and stagger access to support services.
- Move faith-based and community gatherings of any size to video-accessible venues or postpone/cancel.

It should be noted that any current state or federal health directives supersede any less restrictive guidelines listed herein.

Appendix A: Underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age.

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- Chronic kidney disease as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
- Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
- Current or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks
- Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus)
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
- Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].

It should be noted that any current state or federal health directives supersede any less restrictive guidelines listed herein.

Phase 2: Community Mitigation Strategies for Marion County
Expected implementation criteria: evidence of community transmission and/or on the recommendation of the State of Texas

All recommendations within Phase 1 move from voluntary to mandatory.

The following additional mandatory actions are implemented:

Social Gathering Mandatory Bans

- Social gathering limitations according to current statewide or CDC guidelines by a disaster declaration order of the Marion County Judge.
- Bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate would be closed by order of the Marion County Judge. Where possible, restaurants could continue to operate with drive-through, pickup, or delivery options.

Healthcare settings and healthcare provider (includes outpatient, nursing homes/long-term care facilities, inpatient, telehealth)

- Institute temperature/symptom checks for staff, visitors, limit visitor movement in the facility.
- Implement triage before entering facilities (e.g. parking lot triage, front door); phone triage and telemedicine; limit unnecessary healthcare visits.
- Actively monitor HCP absenteeism and respiratory illness among HCP and patients.
- Actively monitor PPE supplies.
- Establish processes to evaluate and test large numbers of patients and HCP with respiratory symptoms (e.g., designated clinics for people with fever, surge tent for overflow triage, offsite testing locations)
- Permit asymptomatic exposed HCP to work while wearing a facemask.
- Cross train HCP for working in other units to support staffing shortages.
- Restrict all visitors from facility entry to reduce facility-based transmission; exceptions for end-of-life visitors but restrict such visitors' movements within the facility.
- Identify areas of operations that may be subject to alternative standards of care and implement necessary changes (e.g., allowing mildly symptomatic HCP to work while wearing a facemask).
- Cancel elective and non-urgent procedures.
- Establish cohort units or facilities for large numbers of patients.
- Consider requiring all HCP to wear a facemask when in the facility depending on supply.
- Consider suspension of new admissions to facilities.

It should be noted that any current state or federal health directives supersede any less restrictive guidelines listed herein.

Phase 3: Community Mitigation Strategies for Marion County
Expected implementation criteria: evidence of widespread community transmission
and/or on the recommendation of the State of Texas

All recommendations within Phase 1 and 2, plus the consideration of the following:

Schools / Daycares

- Mandatory closure of schools and daycares.

Shelter in place

- Implementation of shelter in place protocols to limit the movement of individuals throughout the community.

It should be noted that any current state or federal health directives supersede any less restrictive guidelines listed herein.

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF MARION FILED FOR RECORD
 I hereby certify that this instrument was filed on
 the date and time stamped hereon by me and Mar 24, 2020 04:22P
 was duly recorded in the volume and page of the
 named records of Marion County, Texas as stamped
 hereon by me. OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS VICKIE SMITH,
 COUNTY CLERK
 MARION COUNTY, TEXAS

Mar 24, 2020 04:22P

By:

VICKIE SMITH, COUNTY CLERK
 MARION COUNTY, TEXAS

Vickie Smith
~~DEPUTY~~
 County Clerk