

COVID-19 UPDATE

JOINT STATEMENT OF BASTROP COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

(Includes Bastrop County, City of Bastrop, City of Elgin, City of Smithville, Bastrop County School Districts, and your local Chambers)

March 20, 2020

To limit the spread of COVID-19, the Bastrop County Local Governments are following the Executive Orders from Governor Abbott in accordance with Federal guidelines.

Bastrop County Local Governments make the following recommendations:

- Limit gatherings to no more than 10 people, excluding employers working in essential services, hospitals, pharmacies, grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks.
- Do use restaurant drive-throughs, pick-up and delivery options, instead of eating and/or drinking at restaurants and bars.
- Cancel visits to gyms and massage salons.
- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities, unless to provide critical assistance.

The Executive Order is for a limited duration. For now, the Order is in effect beginning 11:59 p.m. on March 20th and continues until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020. The restrictions could be extended in the future.

We would also like to address concerns that have been brought to our attention via the Hotline and our Social Media pages:

- Our local grocery stores are here to serve our communities and **WILL NOT BE CLOSING THEIR DOORS**. Their warehouses are full, and deliveries are arriving regularly. Please remember to practice social distancing while shopping and, when possible, send only one person from your family to purchase your weekly groceries. It is imperative we remember to be kind, only take what you need, and leave some for your neighbors.
- Most of our restaurants are also open for non-dine-in business and have drive-through, pick-up, and delivery options. Click on the link below for open restaurants in your area:
<https://www.bastropcares.org/covid-19>
- Domestic travel remains unrestricted.
- Please protect your plumbing and stop flushing your Clorox wipes, paper towels, etc. Materials such as these will negatively impact and damage our wastewater treatment systems.
- Water provided by the Cities of Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville, and Aqua Water Supply meet or exceed stringent requirements from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is safe to drink.

Instituting these restrictions is necessary in order to create social distancing and are meant to strengthen and safeguard our communities. These coming weeks are critical in the fight against COVID-19. As Texans, we must act responsibly in order to slow the spread of this virus and protect ourselves and our neighbors.