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HEALTH ORDER

AMARILLO AREA PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

TO: ALL PERSONS IN CITIES OF AMARILLO AND CANYON, VILLAGE OF PALISADES, LAKE TANGLEWOOD COMMUNITY, BUSHLAND COMMUNITY, AND PERSONS IN ALL OTHER PLACES OR PARTS OF IN POTTER OR RANDALL COUNTIES

GREETINGS:

I am the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo Area Public Health District. I am a physician duly appointed and authorized by Texas Health and Safety Code, §81.082 to issue this order. The imposition of this order is necessary as a precautionary control measure associated with an outbreak of COVID-19, a highly communicable disease.

Accordingly, all persons within the areas described above are hereby ORDERED to comply with the measurers list on Exhibit A to this Order, which is incorporated here by this reference.

This Order for Control Measures is effective this 24th day of September, 2020, at 5 o'clock under my authority as the Local Health Authority for the Amarillo Area Public Health District, which encompasses all territory within the City of Amarillo, City of Canyon, Potter County and Randall County, Texas, together with all other villages, towns, communities and areas therein.

Any further order that may be needed will be in writing from me or the Texas Department of State Health Services.

There are criminal penalties for noncompliance with this notice. It is a crime to knowingly refuse to perform or allow the performance of control measures on property as ordered by a Local Health Authority or the Texas Department of Health, or to knowingly conceal an infected object or person, that is the subject of an investigation by either entity. Both crimes are Class B misdemeanors and could result in up to 180 days in jail and/or up to a \$2,000 fine, or both fine and imprisonment.

If you have any questions, please contact me as shown below.

Dr. Scott Milton, M.D., Local Health Authority
Public Health, 1000 Martin Rd., Amarillo, TX 79107
Tel. 806-378-6300
Fax:806-378-6306
Email: covid@amarillo.gov



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EXHIBIT A

Amarillo Area Public Health Authority COVID-19 Requirements

- 1. COVID-19 positive individuals, those being tested, and household contacts:**
 - a. Prohibited from leaving his/her residence.
 - b. Are permitted while wearing a mask/face covering to seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, you shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to presentation to other healthcare resources.
 - c. Prohibited from leaving Potter or Randall County without prior notification to the City of Amarillo Public Health Department at covid@amarillo.gov.
 - d. Shall practice feasible social distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
 - e. Shall notify the City of Amarillo Public Health Department at covid@amarillo.gov if a member of your household is over the age of 60 and/or if they have underlying medical conditions identified by CDC of increasing the risk of complications from COVID-19.
 - f. Shall remain in home quarantine for no less than 10 days following the date of positive test and at least one day (24 hours) after the conclusion of their illness (resolution of fever without medications and improvement in cough and shortness of breath).
 - g. Household contacts shall remain in home quarantine for no less than 14 days following the last exposure to individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- 2. COVID-19 suspected positives or untested individuals with cough, fever, and/or difficulty breathing/shortness of breath:**
 - a. Prohibited from leaving his/her residence without surgical or similar mask/face covering to prevent the spread to others.
 - b. Are permitted while wearing a mask to seek emergency medical care related or unrelated to COVID-19. In doing so, you shall notify first responders at the time of the call to 9-1-1 or prior to presentation to other healthcare resources.
 - c. Shall practice feasible social distancing within the residence, observe hygiene practices for prevention of household spread in accordance with CDC guidelines.
 - d. Shall notify the City of Amarillo Public Health Department at covid@amarillo.gov of the residence does not allow for physical separation from other household contacts (separate room).
 - e. Shall notify the City of Amarillo Public Health Department at covid@amarillo.gov or your primary care provider if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as defined by the CDC.
 - f. Shall remain in home quarantine for no less than 14 days following the last exposure to individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- 3. Vulnerable Populations Shall Limit Outings**
 - a. Vulnerable populations include people who:
 - i. Are 60 years old or older; or
 - ii. Have certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and weakened immune systems.



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- b. Vulnerable populations: do not go to group gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

4. Long Term Care Facilities, Rehabilitation Centers, and Nursing Homes

- a. Facilities shall provide staff with appropriate personal protective equipment and require them to wear PPE when within 6 feet of a patient or another employee.
- b. All healthcare facilities shall follow CDC and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) guidelines for infection control policies and practices and all contingencies concerning staff shortages to minimize exposure and spread of COVID-19.
- c. Facilities shall follow all guidance from Amarillo Area Public Health District.
- e. Facilities should follow HHSC guidelines regarding visitors.
- f. Facilities should follow HHSC guidelines regarding volunteers or other personnel (e.g. barbers, hair stylists, nail technicians).
- g. All essential staff and health care personnel will be screened for respiratory symptoms and fever prior to entering. Anyone with respiratory symptoms, a fever (greater than 100 F) or a fever within the last 24 hours may not enter.
- h. If a staff member becomes ill during a shift or becomes aware of a COVID-19 exposure, they must report to a supervisor and take appropriate next steps.
- i. All staff must wear a surgical mask in the facility.
- j. All staff must wear appropriate PPE when within 6 feet of a resident; mask/respirator, eye protection, etc. (according to HHSC guidance).
- k. Staff may not moonlight or work in another long-term care facility or hospital.
- l. All visiting providers (e.g. Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, x-ray, lab, Respiratory Therapists, Hospice etc.) must wear full personal protective equipment to include gown, gloves, mask and goggles.
- m. Staff must observe social distancing at all times, including staff breaks and mealtimes.

5. COVID-19 Prevention

- a. It is up to the Amarillo Area residents to change the course of COVID-19 for our community. Following these simple prevention tips can minimize and slow the spread of COVID-19:
 - i. Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are over 65 or have a weaker immune system.
 - ii. Limit social gatherings.
 - iii. Maintain a social distance of at least six feet from others when out of the home or in social gatherings.
 - iv. Practice enhanced hygiene.
 - v. Wear a mask when around other people.

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