

CITY OF PALACIOS

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This afternoon, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-16 which outlined his plan for a limited opening of retail businesses in Texas as well as Executive Order GA-17 which created the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas.

Executive Order GA-16 defined "Re-opened services" as retail services that are not "essential services" but that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail or delivery to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with the requirements of the Department of State Health Services, DSHS. This Order is effective on Friday, April 24, 2020. Some important elements of the Governor's latest Order are:

- Executive Order GA-14 previously issued by the Governor and the stay at home order issued by Judge McDonald on April 2nd are **STILL** in effect!
- The limited re-opening of retail businesses must strictly follow the guidelines of the DSHS.
- The most important of those requirements issued by the DSHS is that customers may purchase items from a retail location for pickup, delivery by mail or delivery to the customer's doorstep, but **MAY NOT** enter the premises,
- The Governor's previous Executive order still is in effect and still includes that people shall avoid bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, massage establishments, tattoo and piercing studios and cosmetology salons.
- Texans still shall not visit nursing homes, supported living centers, assisted living facilities or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

I think it is very important to emphasize that the Governor's Order today states that he is suspending Sections of the Texas Government Code, specifically sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108, and also other relevant statutes to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions that are inconsistent with his Executive Order issued today. In other words, any orders issued by Texas Counties or Cities are limited in their scope and must abide by the guidelines that the Governor has established in Executive Order GA-16.

We have made great strides in defeating COVID-19, however, we are not done yet. The Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, which he established today, will be making recommendations in the coming weeks to further restart all aspects of life in Texas including work, school, entertainment and culture.

Continue to stay at home unless absolutely necessary to obtain or provide essential services or limited re-opened services. When obtaining or providing those services,


continue to practice personal distancing and follow the guidelines that have been provided by your Federal, State and Local officials and the CDC.

I want to continue to emphasize that you get your information from reliable sources such as the Texas Division of Emergency Management website, the DSHS website, the CDC website and of course the Matagorda County Emergency Operations website and Facebook page.

We will continue to update you as soon as possible when new information is available or new directives from the Governor are received.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support and I want to emphasize that we will get through these trying times as we have in the past...together.

Thank you,



Glen Smith

Mayor