

CITY OF PALACIOS

P. O. Box 845 ★ PALACIOS, TEXAS 77465
PHONE (361) 972-3605 ★ FAX (361) 972-6555

WWW.CITYOFPALACIOS.ORG



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GOVERNOR ABBOTT MAKES MASKS MANDATORY STATEWIDE AND BANS GROUPS LARGER THAN 10 PEOPLE CAUSING THE CANCELLATION OF 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS IN PALACIOS

This afternoon at 2:30, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-29 which calls for mandatory use of face covering for every person in Texas. Effective at 12:01 p.m. on July 3rd, 2020, every person in Texas must wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or building or space open to the public or when in an outdoor public space whenever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.

There are few exceptions to this new Order but some of those include any person younger than 10 years of age; any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering; any person while driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household; and any person providing or obtaining access to religious worship.

The latest Executive Order calls for a verbal or written warning for a first-time violator of this face-covering requirement, a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.00. Each subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.00 per violation. There will be no confinement in jail for violation of the face covering Order but local law enforcement officials are directed to enforce this Executive Order.

Governor Abbott also issued a proclamation this afternoon that effective 12:01 p.m. July 3rd, 2020, stating that gatherings in excess of 10 people are prohibited. This banning of groups over 10 people has caused the cancellation of the fireworks display planned for July 4th. There will be **NO** fireworks this year at East Bay Park.

This afternoon it has been reported that today, there are 67 new cases of COVID-19 in Matagorda County which raises our total to 299 reported cases. This new number includes 16 cases here in Palacios. 13 of the new cases are from local health centers and 57 are from testing done last week during drive-up testing in Bay City by the State.

Due to these factors, effective Monday, July 6th, Palacios City Hall will be once again closed to the public. City employees will still be handling utility bill payments through the drop-box located in front of the building, and other City business will be handled by phone, but access to City Hall will be closed to the public.

These measures are being taken to help control the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please continue to practice social distancing, wash hands and use hand sanitizer and don't go out unless you have to. This is the easiest to keep of all the guidelines that have been issued.

Please continue to do the things we need to do to keep yourself, your loved ones and our community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen", written in a cursive style.

Glen Smith