

CITY OF PALACIOS

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October 13, 2020

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

BARS AUTHORIZED TO OPEN AND OPERATE AT 50% CAPACITY

On October 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-32 which further expanded the opening of businesses in Texas. This new order states that all business establishments in Texas shall operate at no more than 75% of the total occupancy with few limitations. Of particular note is a provision that allows bars to open at up to 50% of the total listed occupancy of the establishment if the bar or establishment is not in an area with high hospitalizations. The Governor's order left the decision of whether or not to open bars in each county to that county's County Judge. On Sunday, October 12, Matagorda County Judge Nate MacDonald announced that in accordance with GA-32, bars in Matagorda County would be able to open on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 provided that they follow all recommended social distancing and health protocols as issued by the CDC and by the State of Texas.

Texas Department of State Health Services guidelines states that bars must stop serving alcohol at 11:00 p.m. each day and that all employees and customers must wear a face covering (over the nose and mouth) whenever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another individual not in the same household, except when seated at the bar or similar establishment to eat or drink. The guidelines also outline the minimum recommended health protocols for all bars which include, but are not limited to:

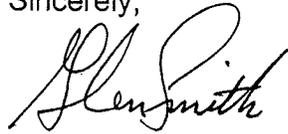
- Customers may not loiter at the bar or in commonly trafficked areas and should remain seated at tables.
- Groups must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other groups at all times.
- Tables should generally be at least 6 feet apart from any other tables. However, a bar may have tables at least 4 feet apart provided that the bar uses partitions between tables that are at least 6 feet tall and 6 feet wide.
- Dance floors are to remain closed and activities that enable close human contact are discouraged.
- No tables of more than 6 people

A complete list of all recommended health protocols is provided on the Texas DSHS website as well as a complete copy of the Governor's Executive Order No. GA-32.

Because our citizens have taken the steps necessary to combat COVID-19, our County at the present time, meets all the requirements to allow for expanding the opening of our businesses and establishments. However, we are not out of the woods yet and the Coronavirus is still an imminent threat the health and well-being of our community.

I strongly urge all of our community to continue to practice social distancing, wear face coverings, wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer often. Take special care around our friends and family who are most at risk and please do not become complacent. Stay watchful, continue to take the proper precautions, get your flu shot early and we will continue on the path to conquering the COVID-19 pandemic together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Glen Smith

Mayor