

OFFICIAL ORDER OF THE MAYOR

March 16, 2020



The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients, and to safeguard public health and safety.

Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Order prohibits community gatherings of 250 persons or more anywhere in the city of Benbrook, Texas, beginning at 12:01 a.m., March 16, 2020, as defined by Section 3 herein.

For all individuals, the City of Benbrook, the Office of the Tarrant County Judge, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly recommend following the “social distancing” protocols included in this Order, including canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons.

Additionally, the City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health also strongly urge high-risk individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to cancel, reschedule, avoid and/or not attend events that will have, or will likely have, 10 or more people.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, SECTION 108, BENBROOK MAYOR JERRY B. DITTRICH ORDERS:

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- 1. EFFECTIVE AS OF 12:01 a.m., March 16, 2020**, public or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3 below) are prohibited anywhere in the city of Benbrook.
- 2. STATE, COUNTY, AND CDC GUIDELINES**  
In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly recommend canceling, rescheduling, or not attending events with more than 250 persons.
- 3. HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS**  
The City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly urge organizations that serve high-risk populations to cancel gatherings of more than 10 people. These recommendations are based on the “social distancing” practices included in this Order, as well as the [Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission](#), issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- 4. NON-ESSENTIAL GATHERINGS**  
The City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glenn Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health urge people to not attend non-essential gatherings during the duration of this Order, in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



### 3. DEFINITIONS

a. For purposes of this Order, a "community gathering" is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together, or is likely to bring together, two-hundred-fifty (250) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single, confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theater, indoor or outdoor stadium, arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

b. A prohibited outdoor "community gathering" under this Order includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that:

- (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure; and
- (ii) where people are present and within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. This order does **NOT** prohibit:

- (i) gatherings of people in multiple, separate, enclosed spaces in a single building, such as a multiplex movie theater, school or office tower, so long as 250 people or more are not present in any single space at the same time.
- (ii) the use of enclosed spaces where 250 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 250 or more people are not present in the space at the same time.

For any gathering covered by this subsection c., the City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly encourage organizers and participants to provide hand sanitizer and tissues, perform regular cleaning/disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces, and comply with the CDC guidelines on social distancing.

The [CDC defines social distancing](#) as "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible."

d. For purposes of clarity, as long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods, a "community gathering" does **not** include the following:

- (i) spaces where 250 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit, such as airports, bus stations, or terminals;
- (ii) office space or residential buildings;
- (iii) grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and,
- (iv) hospitals and medical facilities.

In all such settings, the City of Benbrook, the Office of Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, and Tarrant County Public Health strongly recommend following social distancing guidelines and providing hand sanitizer and tissue when possible.



#### **4. DURATION**

This Order shall be effective until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended, pursuant to applicable law.

#### **5. DISTRIBUTION**

The City of Benbrook must promptly post this order on the City website and make printed copies available to the public. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

#### **6. VALIDITY AND APPLICATION**

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

SIGNED THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry B. Dittrich".

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Jerry B. Dittrich, Benbrook Mayor

Original on file