



Aurelio Guerra, Jr.

Willacy County Judge

576 W. Main Ave, Room 152, Raymondville, Texas 78580

11/19/2020

**JOINT WILLACY COUNTY JUDGE AND WILLACY COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY
SECOND AMENDED EMERGENCY HEALTH CONTROL ORDER REGARDING
ALL SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT WILLACY
COUNTY, ATTENDING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OCCURRING OUTSIDE OF
WILLACY COUNTY,
AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY GATHERINGS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Willacy County Judge Aurelio Guerra issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which thereafter on March 23, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Willacy County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Willacy County Emergency Management Plan and extended the Declaration of Local Disaster;

WHEREAS, the Willacy County Judge, Willacy County Health Authority, Willacy County Emergency Management Coordinator, and Emergency Management Team continue to consult with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Willacy County school officials, and based on the recommendation of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) these actions are necessary to continue to address the community spread of COVID-19 in critical areas of and throughout Willacy County; and

WHEREAS, Willacy County has addressed some concerns of gatherings at school-sponsored events and activities by organizing the broadcasting of certain events and activities occurring within and outside of Willacy County, to encourage Willacy County residents to virtually attend such events and activities while supporting participants and school officials in a safe and low-risk environment; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, Governor Abbot renewed the disaster declaration for COVID-19, and there have been recent drastic increases in positive COVID-19 cases in certain areas within the State of Texas and neighboring counties, and the continuing concern of gatherings with individuals not in the same household at family, community and school events and activities, and the present, urgent need to take preventative and proactive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Willacy County; and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Dr. Mario Sanchez as the Willacy County Local Health Authority and pursuant to his duties, has the authority to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the County of Willacy, Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Section 81.082(a) of the of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and Title 25, Section 97.6(h) of the Texas Administrative Code, unless specifically preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Local Health Authority has supervisory authority and control over the administration of communicable disease control measures within its jurisdiction, to include public school systems, when in his opinion control measures are necessary to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency created by and related to COVID-19, demonstrates a continuing substantial and uncontrolled spread of the disease in the Willacy County community, including Willacy schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY** and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on December 7, 2020. unless modified, rescinded, or superseded, the Willacy County Judge and the Willacy County Health Authority hereby impose the following control measures:

1. All school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs, exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, **within Willacy County**, SHALL continue to be allowed to take place **WITH NO SPECTATORS**.
2. Only persons who are necessary to conduct, officiate, participate, or otherwise essential for the school-sponsored event or activity to proceed will be allowed on the premises. School personnel, law enforcement, and emergency personnel will be allowed, as necessary.
3. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that all school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, being held outside of Willacy County take place **WITH NO SPECTATORS**.
4. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that Willacy County residents avoid and refrain from attending, hosting, participating, or otherwise be involved in any events and activities being held outside of Willacy County.
5. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that Willacy County residents and visitors follow CDC guidelines for Thanksgiving Holiday gatherings. CDC guidelines for the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate with people in your household, by hosting a virtual Thanksgiving meal with friends and family who don't live with you, watching television and playing games with people in your household, and shopping online or curbside. Additional CDC information is at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html>.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. December 7, 2020, and may be modified, extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by applicable law depending on the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to

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COVID-19 cases in the County of Willacy, Texas; or preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order, or any application of it to any school system, or circumstance related to this Order 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.

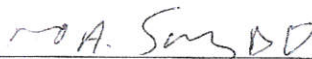
To the greatest extent possible, this Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor including the recommendations in this control order.

All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

ORDERED and **EFFECTIVE** this 19th day of November 2020 at 5:00 am/pm



Aurelio Guerra
Willacy County Judge



Mario Sanchez, M.D.
Willacy County Health Authority