



**DANNY PIERCE**  
County Judge, Walker County  
1100 University Avenue, Room 204  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
**dpierce@co.walker.tx.us**  
**(936) 436-4911**

**ORDER UNDER COUNTY JUDGE DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER  
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person cough or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, April 2, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott's Order GA-14 went into effect which required all Texans to stay home unless they are participating in an essential service or activity; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has acknowledged that counties may need to enact more stringent measures to address this public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Walker County and Texas continues to grow:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY ORDER:

Effective as of 2:00 pm on Thursday, April 9, 2020, and continuing while Walker County is under a declaration of disaster, unless terminated or modified by an order, the County Judge of Walker County, Texas, deems it in the public's interest to issue the following order(s):

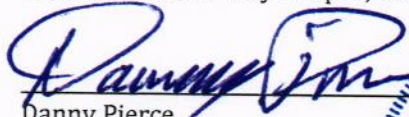
1. All individuals currently living in Walker County, Texas, are ordered to Stay at Home, which aligns with Governor Abbott's Order GA-14. In accordance with GA-14, to the extent individuals are using public or outdoor spaces, they must, as reasonably possible, at all times maintain social distancing, of at least six feet from any other person. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Government Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, as defined by Governor Abbott and Texas Division of Emergency Management.
2. All businesses with a facility in Walker County, except Essential Businesses, are required to cease all activities except Minimum Basic Operations. Businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their residences (i.e., work from home). All Essential Businesses are encouraged to determine essential staff necessary to operate and send non-essential staff home. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements, including but not limited to, when customers are standing in line, both inside and outside, and by minimizing the number of individuals inside a business at any given time.
3. All non-essential gatherings, whether public and private, of any number of people, other than those involving a single household or living unit, are prohibited.

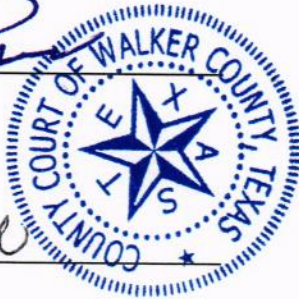
4. All public or private laboratories or testing facilities operating within Walker County, Texas, which are performing COVID-19 testing should make reasonable efforts to report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period to the Walker County Office of Emergency Management:
  - a. The number of COVID-19 tests performed; and
  - b. The number of positive COVID-19 tests.


Such laboratories shall not provide names or other individually identifiable health information that could be used to identify an individual patient. This information will be used solely for public health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the County and mitigate and contain the spread of COVID-19.

5. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.
6. A violation of this order is a misdemeanor offense with a penalty of a fine of no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or confinement in jail for a term up to 180 days, or both; each day a violation exists shall be a separate offense. This Order does not prohibit the use of any other lawfully available enforcement tools.
7. 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.
8. This Order shall remain in effect from 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020, and shall continue until rescinded, extended or amended.

ORDERED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

  
Danny Pierce  
County Judge  
Walker County



  
Attest: Kari A. French  
County Clerk  
Walker County

**FILED FOR RECORD**

At noon o'clock — M

**APR 09 2020**

KARI FRENCH, COUNTY CLERK  
WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS

By  Deputy