



Representative
HENRY RIVERA
District 7



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

March 17, 2020

City Council Ordinances, Health Authority Orders Aim to Reduce Spread of COVID-19

Late this afternoon the El Paso City Council unanimously agreed to enact an ordinance aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately tonight all bars, lounges, taverns, arcades, and private clubs shall close and remain closed for at least two weeks.

In addition, restaurants must reduce their capacity to half of their maximum occupancy. Restaurant owners should also ensure a maximum of six persons per table with at least six feet between tables. Restaurants which are combined with a bar area may remain open but the bar area should only be used to extend the food service area while maintaining the social distancing requirements.

Dr. Hector Ocaranza presented the plan to City Council who acknowledged the fact that financial assistance and housing and utility security will be needed in order to minimize the effect of the loss of income to those affected. Ocaranza says the decision was difficult but necessary during this pandemic.

“These emergency orders are being implemented to help halt the spread of COVID-19. For these measures to be as effective as possible, it is important that residents of all ages answer the call to remain at home unless they need to leave as a necessity,” Ocaranza said. “Our public health team and City Council are doing everything in their power to ensure the community’s health, and everyone must do their part as well to help stop this pandemic.”

Ocaranza also issued orders related to workplaces, senior centers, and day care centers.

Further information and details are available at www.EPHealth.com at the COVID-19 page.

[State of Emergency Extension](#)

[Emergency Ordinance](#)

[Restaurants and Bars Health Authority Orders](#)
[Assisted Living Facilities, Senior Centers Health Authority Orders](#)

[Day Care Centers Health Authority Orders](#)

[Workplaces Health Authority Orders](#)

CoEP Website on COVID-19

CDC Website on COVID-19

COVID-19 Scam Alert

Beware of door-to-door scammers pretending to do in-home testing for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Department of Public Health will NEVER go door-to-door or do in-home tests for COVID-19.



COVID-19

Scam Alert

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El Paso Municipal Court Cancellations *Action to Slow the Spread of COVID-19*

Out of an abundance of caution and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the El Paso Municipal Court will cancel and automatically reset hearings scheduled through Friday, April 3, at 810 E. Overland (notices will be mailed out once a new hearing is set).

The Court encourages people not to come to court if they have traveled internationally, have come in contact with a person with COVID-19, believe they may have COVID-19, are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19 or have flu-like symptoms or a fever.

Residents are urged to call or email the court to reschedule a hearing. The Court also encourages attorneys who know that clients, witnesses, or others have such a condition to alert the court in advance.

The following will be in effect at the court through **Friday, April 3:**

- **No Jury Trials** scheduled for March 26 and 27. Jurors do not appear and are excused.
- **Northeast Hearings** at 9600 Dyer remain in session. Individuals are encouraged to utilize video arraignment option at 10780-A Pebble Hills, 4801 Osborne or 9011 Escobar to speak with the judge.
- **Parking Adjudication Hearings** at 810 E. Overland are remain in session. Scheduled individuals are expected to appear.
- **All Municipal Court activities** to include Juvenile Case Management Classes, Youth Delinquency Prevention Classes, and Teen Court will be suspended in March and April.

The following options are available to stay up to date with the El Paso Municipal Court:

- By phone – (915) 212-0215
- Online chat & website: <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/municipal-courts>
 - Pay Online: www.citepayusa.com
 - Pay by Phone: (915) 212-0232
 - Email: defendants@elpasotexas.gov

Juarez Officials Confirm First Coronavirus Case

Chihuahua government officials confirmed the first case of coronavirus in Ciudad Juarez.

In a press release, Jesus Enrique Grajeda Herrera with the state's health department said a 29-year-old man is in isolation at his home in Juarez.

The man traveled to Italy and returned on March 12. He later began to show symptoms of muscle pain and headache, Herrera said.

Herrera said they expected cases of the virus in the city and is urging people in the community not to panic.

The man who was diagnosed appears to be recovering well from the virus Herrera said.

Epidemiology director Gumaro Barrios said that as of Tuesday, eight people showed possible signs, but only this latest case of the 29-year-old man has been confirmed. Three people are waiting for official results.

Mexico has confirmed nearly 100 cases of coronavirus in the country so far.

A safety campaign is being used in Juarez to educate the public about what safety measures they should take during this time.

[KFOX ARTICLE](#)

[SPANISH ARTICLE](#)

Tips from the El Paso Office of Emergency Management





**Stay
Home
if Sick**



**Antibacterial Gel
Doesn't Replace
Proper Hand
Washing**



**Cover Your
Cough/Sneezes**



**No Need to
Wear a
Facemask
if you are
NOT Sick**



Keeping the workplace safe

Encourage your employees to...

Practice good hygiene



- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and schedule regular hand washing reminders by email
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Be careful with meetings and travel



- Use videoconferencing for meetings when possible
- When not possible, hold meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces
- Consider adjusting or postponing large meetings or gatherings
- Assess the risks of business travel

Handle food carefully



- Limit food sharing
- Strengthen health screening for cafeteria staff and their close contacts
- Ensure cafeteria staff and their close contacts practice strict hygiene

Stay home if...



- They are feeling sick
- They have a sick family member in their home

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus

Keeping commercial establishments safe

Encourage your employees and customers to...

Practice good hygiene



- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door, and schedule regular hand washing reminders by email
- Promote tap and pay to limit handling of cash
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Avoid crowding



- Use booking and scheduling to stagger customer flow
- Use online transactions where possible
- Consider limiting attendance at larger gatherings

For transportation businesses, taxis, and ride shares



- Keep windows open when possible
- Increase ventilation
- Regularly disinfect surfaces

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus

Keeping the home safe

Encourage your family members to...

All households



- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Households with vulnerable seniors or those with significant underlying conditions



Significant underlying conditions include heart, lung, kidney disease; diabetes; and conditions that suppress the immune system

- Have the healthy people in the household conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions. For example, wash hands frequently before interacting with the person, such as by feeding or caring for the person
- If possible, provide a protected space for vulnerable household members
- Ensure all utensils and surfaces are cleaned regularly

Households with sick family members



- Give sick members their own room if possible, and keep the door closed
- Have only one family member care for them
- Consider providing additional protections or more intensive care for household members over 65 years old or with underlying conditions

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus



Newsletter/ Social Media Developer:

Should you have any questions, comments and/or concerns about this edition of the newsletter, please contact Priscilla Contreras at 915.212.1031 or contreraspi@elpasotexas.gov

**We Proudly Support our Troops
and First Responders**

