



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Fort Bend County, Texas

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STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**FORT BEND COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY'S
ORDER ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR NON-CONGREGATE HOUSING/SHELTER
AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE
DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has since spread throughout the world and has been found to pose a high risk of public exposure due to method of transmission and evidence of community spread;

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has caused illness and death within Fort Bend County and continues to do so;

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency was issued to allow Fort Bend County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Fort Bend County residents;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans;

WHEREAS, after expiration on June 10, 2020, of the Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency issued on March 12, 2020 and extended by Fort Bend County Commissioners Court (the "Court"), the County Judge subsequently issued an additional Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on June 23, 2020, also extended to July 31, 2020, by the Court on June 30, 2020, to implement recommendations to slow the continued rapid spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, after months of community spread, increase in rates of positive results from tests, and more symptomatic cases, additional measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout Fort Bend County;

WHEREAS, a local health authority is authorized by Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 81.082 (f) to institute disease control measures including detention, restriction, decontamination, isolation, quarantine, preventative therapy and prevention and is required by Texas Health and Safety

Code Chapter 121.024(b) to perform each duty that is necessary to implement and enforce a law to protect the public health; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend County local health authority is authorized by Texas Government Code Section 418.108(d) and the Fort Bend County Emergency Operations Plan to designate locations as quarantine and isolation facilities during a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to prevent or reduce the burden of patient surge on local hospitals.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JACQUELYN JOHNSON-MINTER, MD, MBA, MPH THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR FORT BEND COUNTY MAKE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

1. That there are Fort Bend individuals under investigation due to COVID-19 or who are infected or are suspected of being infected with COVID-19 who have been or could be discharged from hospital facilities and will be unable to safely isolate or quarantine at home, a healthcare/hospital facility, or other place, including but not limited to vulnerable populations, individuals experiencing homelessness, first responders, public safety personnel, and other County residents;
2. That non-congregate sheltering is needed in Fort Bend County for individuals in one or more the following scenarios:
 - Essential employees/first responders who test positive for COVID-19 that do not require hospitalization, but require isolation or quarantine (including those exiting from hospitals);
 - Essential employees/first responders who have been exposed to COVID-19 (as documented by a state or local public health official, or medical health professional) that do not require hospitalization, but require isolation or quarantine;
 - Essential employees/first responders who are at reasonable risk of having been exposed to COVID-19 and cannot return to their usual residence or work because of the risk of infecting other household members, coworkers, and the public;
 - Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who do not require hospitalization but need isolation (including those exiting from hospitals, such as a step down, alternate care site); and
 - Individuals that have been exposed to COVID-19 and do not require hospitalization.
3. That a large surge in the number of individuals with serious infection has or will compromise the ability of the local health care system to delivery necessary health care to the public resulting in the need to prioritize hospital beds in favor of the most acutely ill and locate additional resources for quarantine and isolation;
4. That the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be more active than usual, according to projections released by the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project which calls for 16 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes and that if even one of

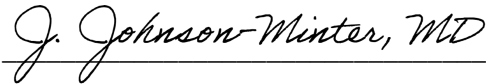
- these events occurs, that the need for non-congregate sheltering will be dramatically increased;
5. That the use of non-congregate sheltering to support communicable disease control measures will help preserve critical and limited health care capacity in the County and reduce the spread of COVID 19; and
 6. That it is currently necessary to establish non-congregate sheltering to address the public health needs of Fort Bend County arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I HEREBY ISSUE THE FOLLWING ORDERS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL FOR FORT BEND COUNTY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE CHAPTERS 81 AND 121:

1. That non-congregate shelter isolation and quarantine locations be secured by the County and used to serve health and medical-related needs, such as isolation and quarantine resulting from the public health emergency to minimize the spread of COVID-19;
2. That appropriate facility types for non-congregate shelter may include, but are not limited to, Hotels/Motels/Inns; Short-term rental facilities; Dorm rooms; Apartments; Homes/Condominiums; Tent encampments, cabins, and similar facilities that may provide appropriate separation;
3. That locations for non-congregate shelter provide adequate supports and services to enable a person to remain in isolation or quarantine, including but not limited to food, toiletries, laundry services, and access to medications;
4. That selection, location, use and assignment of non-congregate shelter be approved in advance and in writing by the local health authority;
5. That individual units within non-congregate sheltering be equipped with a bathroom and individual heating, cooling and ventilation (HCV);
6. That locations to be used for non-congregate sheltering have on site management staffing, case management staffing and security, and a plan for hospital transportation as needed; that cleaning schedules will be established and that personal protective equipment will be available for staff on site; and
7. That the continuing need for emergency non-congregate sheltering in Fort Bend County be reassessed at least every 30 days by the local health authority;

8. That a copy of this **ORDER FOR THE NEED FOR NON-CONGREGATE HOUSING/SHELTER AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY** be recorded in the minutes of the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court; and
9. That this **ORDER FOR THE NEED FOR NON-CONGREGATE HOUSING/SHELTER AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY** is effective and begins on the date of issuance of this Order and ends on the date this order is terminated or rescinded by the Health Authority, or in accordance with applicable law.

Issued under my authority as the Local Health Authority for the Fort Bend County on this the 18 day of July 2020.



Jacquelyn Johnson-Minter, MD, MBA, MPH

Local Health Authority

Fort Bend County, Texas