



## OFFICE *of the* MAYOR

**MAYOR BILLY HEWES**

### **SAFER AT HOME ORDER**

Despite efforts to curb the transmission of disease through the discouraging of group gatherings, handwashing, and social distancing, COVID-19 continues to spread at an alarming rate. Given the latest spike in statistics, it is necessary to take further steps to protect the health, safety and well-being of our citizens, our communities, and our way of life.

Our city has worked to find a means for those who can stay in business, to do so – responsibly. *“Open, if necessary; Close, where possible.”* While many have adapted their practices and adopted their own shelter-in-place protocols, there are, unfortunately, too many groups, individuals, and establishments who have ignored the warnings – continuing to operate and encourage large gatherings, as if nothing has changed. This selfishness is unfair to those who have been acting in good faith, and has now put our community at risk. It is because of these activities that we are now forced to implement additional measures to protect the public. This is anything, but *“business as usual.”*

Local officials take no pleasure in restricting the movements of our public, but it has been shown that the quicker measures are put in place, the faster communities recover, economically. In a recent teleconference with Gov. Reeves and Mississippi Municipal League Mayors across the State, his best advice for city leaders to convey to residents is, *“Stay home. If you do not stay home, the likelihood is high, that you will contract the virus.”*

Mayor Billy Hewes has issued a **Safer at Home** order, effective at 11:59 pm, March 31, 2020, directing all Gulfport residents to observe the requirements of this order and limit activities beyond those for essential needs. This order includes a curfew from 11:00 pm – 5:00 am for all individuals, except for medical professionals and first responders.



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Under this order:

#### **YOU CAN**

- Go to the grocery, convenience or warehouse store
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up medications and other healthcare necessities
- Go to medically necessary appointments (check with your doctor or provider first)
- Go to a restaurant for take-out/curbside pick-up, delivery or drive-thru only
- Care for or support a friend or family member
- Take a walk, ride your bike, hike, jog and be in nature for exercise — just keep at least six feet between you and others
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian, if necessary
- Help someone to get necessary supplies
- Receive deliveries from any business which delivers

#### **YOU SHOULD NOT**

- Go to work unless you are providing essential services as defined by this Order\*
- Visit friends and family if there is no urgent need
- Maintain less than 6 feet of distance from others when you go out
- Visit loved ones in the hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility or other residential care facility, except for limited exceptions as provided on the facility websites.



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#### **General Provisions**

- All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, trampoline parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, pool halls, children's play centers, playgrounds, theme parks, any theaters, concert and music halls, adult entertainment venues, racetracks, and other similar businesses are ordered closed, until further notice
- All personal care and grooming businesses, including, but not limited to, barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, spas, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, exercise studios, fitness centers and facilities, cross training gyms, gyms, and other similar businesses are ordered closed, until further notice.
- Businesses and other similar type establishments having a large customer/client base (retail stores, plasma centers, home improvement stores, etc.) must limit customer access to their places of business to no more than 5% of their permitted occupancy limit, at any one time. This calculation does not include employees in the count.
- Restaurants are encouraged to provide take-out/curbside pick-up, delivery or drive-thru options. No on-premise meal service or consumption is allowed – inside, or outside.
- Room occupancy maximums at transient public lodging establishments (hotels, motels, short-term rentals, etc.) shall not exceed bed capacity of the room. (i.e. 2 beds = 2 people)
- Any businesses or service trades not covered by the guidance from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and not ordered to temporarily close must adjust operations to continue with minimum contact with members of the public and essential employees, while requiring proper social distancing, adhering to the 10-person group limitation.
- Businesses closed to the public as listed in the order can conduct necessary activities such as payroll, cleaning services, maintenance or upkeep, as necessary – provided social distancing protocols are enforced.
- Early learning centers and child care facilities adhering to the guidance issued by the Mississippi Department of Education and Office of Public Health may continue to operate.



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**\*\* Examples of Essential Worker Functions under the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines include:**

- Healthcare workers and caregivers
- Mental health and Social Service workers
- Pharmacy employees
- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail sales of food and beverage products
- Restaurant carryout and quick-serve food operations and food delivery employees
- Farm workers
- Electricity and Utility Industry Employees
- Critical Manufacturing Employees (medical supply chains, energy, transportation, food, chemicals)
- Petroleum, Natural and Propane Gas Workers
- Transportation and Logistics Workers
- Communications and Information Technology Employees
- **Financial Services and Banking Industry Employees**

#### **Yellow Card**

For those establishments choosing to further the spread of the virus by ignoring social distancing protocols and allowing the gathering of groups, we are instituting a new WARNING and CITATION policy.

City Directors have been authorized to issue warning notices to operations in violation of crowd density and social distancing restrictions. Those establishments issued a warning will be posted on the City of Gulfport Facebook page. Police Officers are authorized to issue citations, that include a fine up to \$300, and/or jail time, up to 6 months. First offense shall be for the on-premises manager or supervisor. Second offense violations shall apply to the managers, supervisors, owners, and all patrons on premises.



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**City of Gulfport**  
**COVID-19 Violation WARNING**

FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH PROCLAMATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY THE MAYOR  
AND ADOPTED GUIDELINES PROMULGATED BY THE CDC REGARDING COVID-19

\_\_\_ 1. Customers/Employees violating order to refrain from groups of more than ten

\_\_\_ 2. Customers/Employees violating order to maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet apart

\_\_\_ 3. Management violating order to provide sanitation measures for customers

\_\_\_ 4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business (Violator) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Business (Violator) \_\_\_\_\_

Violation Warning Hand-Delivered to \_\_\_\_\_

City Inspector \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Violation \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time of Delivery \_\_\_\_\_

The economic impacts already being felt are alarming, but if we don't take additional steps to protect the health of our community, what we are encountering today is only the tip of the iceberg. We can choose to endure 4-6 weeks of debilitating hardship, or 6-8 months of devastating quarantine. Based upon trends around the country, matters are likely to get worse, before they get better. While this "inconvenience" has cramped our style, the sad fact is, it's likely to start killing our friends and neighbors. It's that serious.

- \* For further specifics regarding these measures, refer to the full text of the Mayoral Proclamation, COVID-19 Executive Order No. 2.
- \*\* Those entities covered under CISA guidelines are also required to implement social distancing and sanitation practices.

For up-to-date information check the following websites: Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/>  
Mississippi State Department of Health <https://www.msdh.ms.gov/> City of Gulfport <http://www.gulfport-ms.gov/>