



Update, March 23, 2020

County Clarifies COVID-19 Orders

Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt issued an [Order](#) March 21 clarifying certain provisions of the gathering restrictions ordered for Travis County. The latest Order defines prohibited “social gatherings” of 10 or more people, but excludes performing employment and shopping for food, medicine or household supplies. “Social distancing” is defined as maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between people, but the Judge reminds everyone that “Staying home is best.”

The Order excludes “critical infrastructure” from the limit of fewer than 10 people, and defines it to include schools, institutes of higher learning (if in operation) and home- or center-based childcare; grocery stores and pharmacies, hospitals and medical offices and facilities, and veterinarian services, as well as homeless shelters and non-profit community establishments. These settings are strongly encouraged to comply with recommendations on sanitizing, hand-washing, and social distancing. “Grocery stores” are defined to include pet food stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, gas stations, farmers’ markets, or food pantries that sell food or household staples.

For details, view the Order at <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/docs/200314-gathering-order.pdf>.

FDA Warns of Fraudulent COVID-19 Test Kits

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting the public that unauthorized fraudulent test kits are being marketed to test for COVID-19 at home. These fraudulent tests can pose serious health risks by keeping some patients from seeking care or delaying necessary medical treatment. Consumers are encouraged to follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and call your medical provider if you have symptoms about whether you should get tested. Read the full FDA news release [here](#).

