



## Waller County Office of Emergency Management

### Social Distancing Guidelines

#### 1) General

- Cancel non-essential events;
- No public or private gatherings or meetings of individuals of ten (10) or more in any space that does not allow for social distancing to be maintained for the entire gathering
- Do not attend any events, gatherings, meetings if you are not feeling well;
- Having hand washing capabilities, hand sanitizers and tissues available;
- Frequent cleaning of high touch surface areas like counter tops and hand rails;
- Maintain physical space to minimize close contact as much as possible with a minimum distance of 6 feet between yourself and other individuals

#### 2) Vulnerable Populations: Limit Outings

- Vulnerable populations include people who are:
  - ✓ 60 years old and older.
  - ✓ People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.
- For vulnerable populations, don't go to gatherings unless it is essential. If you can telecommute, you should. Avoid people who are sick.

#### 3) Restaurants and Bars

- No in-restaurant dining; Takeout, delivery and drive-thru service only.
- Regularly and frequently clean and sanitize all common surfaces (door handles, countertops, bathroom areas) and clean/sanitize tables after each use;
- Require any employee that is not feeling well to stay home;

#### 4) Workplace and Businesses: Minimize Exposure

- Suspend nonessential employee travel.
- Minimize to the greatest extent possible the number of employees working within six feet of one another, including minimizing or canceling large in-person meetings and conferences.
- Monitor the health and well-being of your employees on a daily basis and take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace
- Require employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.
- Do not require a doctor's note for employees who are sick.
- Consider use of telecommuting options.
- Use a measure of 113 square feet per person when determining whether the size of a space is adequate given the number of attendees



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- Some people need to be at work to provide essential services of great benefit to the community. They can take steps in their workplace to minimize risk.

### 5) Schools: Safety First

- Do not have your child attend school if sick.
- If you have a child with chronic health conditions, consult the child's doctor about school attendance.
- Schools should equip all classrooms with hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Recommend rescheduling or cancelling events that are not essential.
- Explore remote teaching and online options to continue learning.
- Schools should develop a plan for citywide school closures, and families should prepare for potential closures.

### 6) Transit: Cleaning and Protection

- Increase cleaning of vehicles and high touch surface areas.
- Provide hand washing/hand sanitizers and tissues in stations and on vehicles.

### 7) Health Care Settings: Avoid as possible, protect the vulnerable

- Long-term care facilities should have a COVID-19 plan in accordance with CDC or state guidelines.
- Long-term care facilities should restrict all visitation except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life situations.
- The general public should avoid going to medical settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, even if you are not ill.
- If you are ill, call your health care provider ahead of time, and you may be able to be served by phone.
- Do not visit emergency rooms, unless it is essential.
- Follow guidance and directions of all facilities.

### 8) Everyone: Do your part

The best way for all Waller County residents to reduce their risk of getting sick, as with seasonal colds or the flu, still applies to prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials and CDC guidance.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.



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You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak. Preparedness actions include:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.