

THE GOVERNOR

As required by Government Code, §2002.011(4), the *Texas Register* publishes executive orders issued by the Governor of Texas. Appointments and proclamations are also published. Appointments are published in chronological order. Additional information on documents submitted for publication by the Governor's Office can be obtained by calling (512) 463-1828.

Appointments

Appointments for May 22, 2020

Appointed to the Texas Ethics Commission, for a term to expire November 19, 2023, Chad M. Craycraft of Dallas, Texas (Mr. Craycraft is being reappointed).

Appointed to the Texas Ethics Commission, for a term to expire November 19, 2023, Mary K. "Katie" Kennedy of Houston, Texas (Ms. Kennedy is being reappointed).

Greg Abbott, Governor

TRD-202002172



Executive Order GA-24

Relating to the termination of air travel restrictions as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, I issued proclamations renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas on April 12 and May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined on March 19, April 17, and May 15, 2020, that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Orders GA-11 and GA-12 on March 26 and March 29, 2020, respectively, to impose a mandatory self-quarantine for people traveling to Texas from certain areas experiencing substantial community spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-20 on April 27, 2020, to narrow the scope of these travel restrictions in light of social-distancing restrictions that have slowed the spread of COVID-19 in Texas and in other states; and

WHEREAS, in coping with the COVID-19 disaster, and especially as services are being reopened in Texas, government officials should look for the least restrictive means of combatting the threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order that all restrictions contained in Executive Order GA-20 are terminated in their entirety, effective immediately. Any mandatory self-quarantine already in effect as a result of Executive Order GA-20 is hereby terminated, also effective immediately.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-20, as well as Executive Orders GA-11 and GA-12 that it superseded, but does not supersede Executive Orders GA-10, GA-13, GA-17, GA-19, or GA-23. This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

Given under my hand this the 21st day of May, 2020.

Greg Abbott, Governor

TRD-202002027



Executive Order GA-25

Relating to in-person visitation at county and municipal jails during the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, I issued proclamations renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas on April 12 and May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined on March 19, April 17, and May 15, 2020, that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the jail population in Texas presents unique challenges in mitigating against and responding to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, my office has worked with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and with state and local officials to address these challenges while protecting the health of all Texans, including inmates in county and municipal jails; and

WHEREAS, I have temporarily suspended a rule of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, at that agency's request, so that county and

municipal jails are not required to allow in-person visitation during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, some county and municipal jails are now reportedly considering resumption of in-person visitation, which would risk further spread of COVID-19, both inside and outside the jails, and consume personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, allowing in-person visitation would subject inmates and staff to an unacceptable risk of importing COVID-19 into county and municipal jails, where it could spread rapidly and threaten the health and safety of inmates and staff; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the "governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), the "governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;" and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable under Section 418.173 by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, and may be subject to regulatory enforcement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective immediately:

All county and municipal jails are closed to in-person visitation, and every person in Texas shall avoid in-person visitation at closed jails; provided, however, that this restriction does not apply to visitation by (i) an attorney meeting with a client; or (ii) a religious leader or member of the clergy. Any visitation allowed under this executive order should be conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

Given under my hand this the 22nd day of May, 2020.

Greg Abbott, Governor

TRD-202002090



Proclamation 41-3736

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, I issued proclamations renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas on April 12 and May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-23 on May 18, 2020, to set forth an expanded list of "Covered Services" that are or will soon be allowed during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-23 provided that additional Covered Services could be added by proclamation thereafter;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby expand the enumerated list of Covered Services in Executive Order GA-23 by adding items 18(h) and 21(d) as follows:

18. Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2020, for all Texas counties except Deaf Smith, El Paso, Moore, Potter, and Randall counties:

h. Outdoor motorsports events that operate at up to 25 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the venue owner and that operate under guidelines that facilitate appropriate social distancing.

21. Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2020, for all Texas counties:

d. All professional sporting events (i) that operate at up to 25 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the venue owner for outdoor events or, for indoor events, with no spectators physically present on the premises of the venue; (ii) that operate under guidelines that facilitate appropriate social distancing; and (iii) for which a plan has been submitted to DSHS that incorporates minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS as applicable.

Executive Order GA-23 is amended to the extent provided in this proclamation, including to eliminate the approval process set forth in item 21(a) of Executive Order GA-23 because of the expanded Covered Service set forth in item 21(d) above. This proclamation shall remain in effect and in full force for as long as Executive Order GA-23 is in effect and in full force, unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 22nd day of May, 2020.

Greg Abbott, Governor

TRD-202002091



Proclamation 41-3737

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, I issued proclamations renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas on April 12 and May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-23 on May 18, 2020, to set forth an expanded list of "Covered Services" that are or will soon be allowed during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-23 provided that additional Covered Services could be added by proclamation thereafter; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2020, I added several Covered Services by proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby expand further the enumerated list of Covered Services in Executive Order GA-23 by amending item 5 to

permit food-court dining areas within shopping malls to open and by adding items 20(b), 21(e), and 24(a) as follows:

Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020, for all Texas counties:

b. Water parks that operate at up to 25 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the venue owner or, for indoor water parks, at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the water park; provided, however, that components that have video arcades must remain closed.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2020, for all Texas counties:

e. Recreational sports programs for adults; provided, however, that practices may begin, but games and similar competitions may not begin until June 15, 2020.

Starting immediately for all Texas counties:

Driver education programs.

Executive Order GA-23, as amended by the May 22, 2020, proclamation, is further amended to the extent provided in this proclamation, including to remove water parks as one of the venues that people shall avoid visiting. This proclamation shall remain in effect and in full force for as long as Executive Order GA-23 is in effect and in full force, unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 26th day of May, 2020.

Greg Abbott, Governor

TRD-202002161

