

## GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

### **WHAT IS MY OCCUPANCY LOAD?**

The occupancy load for your business should be provided on your Certificate of Occupancy. If you are not able to locate your occupancy load, contact the City of New Braunfels Building Division at (830) 221-4060 or [BuildingPermitTechs@nbtexas.org](mailto:BuildingPermitTechs@nbtexas.org). The Governor's Executive Order GA-18, allows dine-in restaurants, retailers, movie theaters, museums, and libraries to resume operations on May 1, 2020 at 25% of the total listed occupancy. This limitation is for the number of customers in the business, and does not include essential employees of the business.

### **HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM CONSIDERED A RESTAURANT OR A BAR?**

Under the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, restaurants may resume dine-in operations on May 1, 2020 with 25% occupancy but bars are not yet allowed to resume operations. If your business is required by TABC to post the 51% sign, then you are considered a bar and cannot yet reopen.

### **DO I HAVE TO WEAR A FACE MASK?**

There is currently no order in Texas or New Braunfels that requires people to wear face masks. The Governor's Executive Order GA-18 encourages employees and patrons to consider wearing appropriate face coverings, particularly in situations where social distancing of 6 feet is not possible. Businesses may decide to require their staff or patrons to wear a face covering while inside the business.

### **MY BUSINESS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT TO OPEN TEXAS AS EITHER REOPENING OR NOT OPENING. WHAT DO I DO?**

If your business is considered an essential business as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 3.0 or any subsequent version, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship, then you will continue operations as you had been prior to the Governor's Executive Order GA-18. The Order does encourage work from home arrangements if possible. If your business was not considered an essential service, and was not specifically included in the Governor's Order, you should remain closed. The Texas Division of Emergency Management maintains an online list of essential services. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting the TDEM website at [www.tdem.texas.gov/essential-services](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essential-services).

### **CAN I VISIT MY LOVED ONE IN A NURSING HOME, HOSPITAL, OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY?**

The Governor's Executive Order GA-18, specifically restricts visits to nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities. It also strongly encourages people over the age of 65 to stay home as much as possible and maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days.

# FAQ'S CONTINUED

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### **ARE RIVER OUTFITTERS OPEN?**

River outfitters are not included in the list of essential services and were not specifically mentioned in the Governor's Executive Order GA-18 as permitted to reopen. Therefore, river outfitters are to remain closed until there is further guidance from the Governor addressing their industry.

### **ARE CAMPGROUNDS, RV PARKS, SHORT-TERM RENTALS, HOTELS AND MOTELS OPEN?**

Yes, campgrounds, RV parks, short-term rentals, hotels and motels may still operate but should follow the minimum health protocols provided by the Governor's Report for employers, employees, and visitors that include frequent and rigorous cleaning of facilities and common spaces or equipment. People are still under order by Governor Abbott to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in their household and also avoid social gatherings. People must also practice social distancing between their household and others.

### **WHEN WILL SCHOOLS REOPEN?**

According to the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, schools will remain closed and will not recommence prior to the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools will remain closed until further guidance is provided by the Governor.

### **HOW DO I REPORT A BUSINESS THAT IS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER?**

To report a business that is not complying with the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, contact the COVID-19 hotline at (830) 221-4222, City of New Braunfels' Planning and Development Services department at (830) 221-4074 or [codeenforcement@nbtexas.org](mailto:codeenforcement@nbtexas.org). The City's goal is always to educate and seek compliance and will work with businesses and residents to understand the specifics of the Order and adjustments they can make to ensure compliance.

### **IS THERE A PENALTY FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER?**

According to the Governor's Executive Order GA-18, "failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement."