

**ORDER CLOSING PUBLIC BEACHES IN THE CITY OF GALVESTON
ISSUED BY
THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON**

WHEREAS, the City of Galveston, Texas, has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 418 related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus; and

WHEREAS, information issued by the federal Center for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health Services related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus have stressed undertaking steps to control of the virus; and

WHEREAS, those entities have urged that the failure to take steps to diminish the spread of the virus will result in the overwhelming of the health care system in this area with a concomitant increase of mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Health District has confirmed the presence of Corona virus in Galveston County caused by community spread and the number of active cases in the County continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the present emphasis is the control of community spread of the virus by limiting the number of citizens who are interacting within a given area; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a high concentration of citizens on the beaches in Galveston presents an opportunity for community spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken further steps to discourage people from congregating in highly concentrated groups by closing amenities at beaches and parks; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these control measures has been to diminish the numbers of visitors to the City and thereby curtail the concentration of individuals in areas to reduce the chance of community spread of the virus from person to person; and

WHEREAS, it appears that despite the efforts of the City to diminish the concentrations of citizens on the public beach have been unsuccessful based on the large number of individuals visiting the beach and robust control measures to prevent the spread of the virus are required.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes;

SECTION 2. For purposes of this Order, the term "beach" shall refer to the edge of the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to either: 1) the concrete monolith of the Seawall, or 2) the vegetation line running parallel to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, or 3) the edge of the dunes running parallel to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico whichever apply.

SECTION 3. The beaches in the City of Galveston be and are hereby closed to the public

SECTION 4. It is a violation of this Order for any member of the public to enter onto the beach for any reason; this order may be enforced by any City of Galveston police officer, the City Marshall or any deputy City Marshall, or any member of the Galveston Beach Patrol.

SECTION 5. A violation of this Order shall be a Class C misdemeanor punishable as permitted by law.

SECTION 6. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration shall take effect immediately upon entry as set forth below and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this Order or until further Order of the City.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED at 2:45 pm this the 29th day of March 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DONALD S. GLYWASKY
CITY ATTORNEY



JAMES D. YARBROUGH
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON

ATTEST:



JANELLE WILLIAMS
CITY SECRETARY

