

The Board of Supervisors (the "Governing Authority") of DeSoto County, Mississippi (the "County"), took up for consideration the matter of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a discussion of the subject a motion was made for the adoption of the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION RECOMMENDING THE
LIMITING OF GATHERINGS OF PEOPLE, CLOSING BARS AND RESTAURANTS TO
PUBLIC ACCESS AND IMPLEMENTING "STAY AT HOME"
POLICIES IN THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, pursuant to Section 33-15-17 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, (the Code) a proclamation of the existence of a local emergency (the "Proclamation") was issued by the Governing Authority to allow the County to take measures to reduce public exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of County residents; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump, in coordination with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC), officially recommended limiting group gatherings to no more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another; accordingly, the CDC, the World Health Organization (the WHO) and the Mississippi State Department of Health have recommended proper social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority wishes to employ all means available under the law to protect public life, health, safety and property and to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19 creating this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority, pursuant to the Code and the Proclamation, has the authority to issue such orders as are necessary for the protection of life and property and in the interest of public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, to limit the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the growth curve of cases, authorities, all over the globe, are taking extraordinary measures to prohibit and limit nonessential close personal contact; and

WHEREAS, as of March 21, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health reported that there were thirteen (13) cases of COVID-19 in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority finds and determines that extraordinary measures related to the spread of the Coronavirus are necessary and expedient for the health, safety, welfare and good order to protect the public peace and preserve lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Authority, pursuant to the authority vested in the Governing Authority by the Code, and in the public interest and for the general welfare of the County, does hereby issue this Proclamation encouraging all citizens, businesses and entities take appropriate and immediate action to stem the spread of COVID-19. It is recommended and strongly encouraged that the following actions be immediately taken and observed:

1. That all events of more than 10 people cease whenever possible;
2. That all events, regardless of the number of people be limited, as provided herein.
 - Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions that are at increased risk of serious COVID-19 be encouraged not to attend.

- Social distancing recommendations, as prescribed by the CDC, WHO and Mississippi State Department of Health, be met.
- Proper hand hygiene and sanitation must be readily available to all attendees and individuals involved
- Pre and post event environmental cleaning guidelines from CDC are followed.

3. For the purposes of this Proclamation an event is an organized, orchestrated or sponsored gathering that people are invited to attend or encouraged to attend. An event includes a gathering for business, social, or recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, public, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers, large private parties, celebrations or banquets; artistic performances, and spiritual and faith-based gatherings. An event is not a public location where people pass through, such as transportation centers, airports, public squares, and shopping areas. Retail establishments such as grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, and banks are not events. Medical facilities, schools, universities, and County owned or leased buildings where essential functions and services are being carried out are not events.

4. That all restaurants located in the County only provide take-out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services and all in-house dining be discontinued and sitting areas for the public be closed.

5. That all bars, nightclubs, lounges, taverns, and private clubs located in the County be closed, except to the extent that such establishments may provide take-out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services for food.

6. All persons "Stay at Home" and leave their residences or place of rest only to perform "Essential Activities," as described below. People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are urged to stay in their residence or place of rest except as necessary to seek medical care and to obtain essential items and services

7. All persons practice social distancing. "Social Distancing" includes maintaining at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

8. All Non-Essential Business, described below, cease to the greatest extent reasonably possible. To the extent non-essential business and other activities continue such should be limited to consisting exclusively of employees, contractors, or other persons performing the activities and, where possible, such be performed at their own residences or places of rest.

9. Definitions and Exemption. For purposes of sections 6 through 8 above, the following terms will have the meaning ascribed to them:

A. Essential Activities shall mean:

i) Engaging in activities or perform tasks essential to one's health and safety, or the health and safety of their families (whether living in the same household or living separately) and household members (including pets) such as, but not expressly limited to, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home;

ii) Obtaining necessary services or supplies for themselves, their families or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others in need such as, but not expressly limited to, providing groceries, food, drink and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential life activities;

- iii) To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements, such as, by way of example and without limitation, biking, walking, hiking, or running;
- iv) Performing work necessary for providing essential products and services to the public such as, but not expressly limited to: caring for a family member, close personal acquaintances, or pets.
- v) For the purposes of this Proclamation essential activities do not include weddings, funerals, wakes, memorial services, or similar gatherings.
- vi) For the purposes of this Proclamation essential business means any for-profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of its corporate or entity structure which includes:
 - a. Healthcare operations and related infrastructure;
 - b. Grocery stores, farm and produce stands, markets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products) and other non-grocery products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and businesses;
 - c. Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
 - d. Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
 - e. Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities;
 - f. Banks and related financial institutions;
 - g. Hardware stores.
 - h. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, businesses and essential activities;
 - i. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
 - j. Laundromats and laundry service providers;
 - k. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food and drink, but only for delivery or carry out. Entities that typically provide free food services to members of the public may continue to do so on the condition that the food is provided on a pick-up and takeaway basis only.
 - l. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home, that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences;
 - m. transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for essential activities and other authorized purposes, as well as transportation maintenance services such as mechanics necessary to keep transportation services operational;
 - n. Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children and residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
 - o Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;

B. Exemptions. All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, law enforcement personnel, and school personnel operating at the direction of administrator designation, and others working for or to support essential businesses are categorically excluded from these recommendations while performing their official duties/job functions.

10. It is not the intent of this Proclamation to limit any individual from performing or accessing essential governmental functions, being those functions needed to ensure the continuing operation of any government agencies. However, essential governmental functions should be performed remotely (online, email etc.) where reasonably available and, to extent possible, in compliance with social distancing requirements when remote options are not available.

THIS PROCLAMATION shall be promptly filed with the Clerk of the Governing Authority; distributed to the news media and other organizations so as to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and distributed to others as necessary to ensure maximum distribution and notice to the public.

This the 22nd day of March, 2020, upon motion made by Supervisor Lee Caldwell and seconded by Supervisor Mark Gardner, and approved by the following vote:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Ray Denison	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Lee Caldwell	<u>yes</u>
Supervisor Michael Lee	<u>yes</u>


Jessie Medlin, President
DeSoto County, Board of Supervisors

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted in the regular meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors on the 22 day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:


Misty Heffner, Clerk

