

## STAYS IN FILE

## ORDER BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY

## County Judge Order 2021-11; Relating to the COVID-19 and Permit and Expiration Date Extension

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by the Travis County Judge to allow the County of Travis ("County" or "Travis County"), Texas, to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Travis County residents; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Greg Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

Whereas, the virus that causes COVID-19 is contagious and spreads through person-toperson contact, especially in group settings, and is a virus that spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person speaks, sings, coughs, or sncczes; and it also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes; and

Whereas, a significant percentage of individuals with the COVID-19 virus lack symptoms, which means that an infected person can transmit the virus to others before showing any symptoms; and

Whereas, on February 16, 2021, the County Judge issued Order 2021-02, and as part of that Order to mitigate the effects of the public health emergency and comply with necessary health measures, included a provision that extended all deadlines or expiration dates imposed by County code, order, rule or regulation for site plans, subdivisions, permits or similar development applications or approvals until December 31, 2021 or the date they normally would have expired, whichever was later; and

Whereas, on May 21, 2021, the County Judge issued Order 2021-05, regarding compliance with the recommendations and guidance of the Health Authority for Austin/Travis County and recommendations for vaccinations and wearing face coverings to prevent further transmission of the COVID-19 virus and on August 13, 2021, 2021, issued Order 2021-08a, relating to COVID-19 and Mask to be Safe at School and Order 2021-09a relating to COVID-19 and Requirement to Wear Face Coverings in Travis County Facilities and updating County facilities list; and

Whereas, because COVID-19 remains a public health threat due to the rise of variants of the disease and other factors, Dr. Desmar Walkes, the Health Authority for Austin/Travis County, reissued Emergency Rules for the County on December 14, 2021 to protect public health, and continues to implore individuals to wear face coverings to prevent further transmission of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary emergency measures must be taken to try and mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate a response to the public health threat in order to protect the health and safety of the community; and

Whereas, pursuant to Government Code section 418.108(g), a County Judge is authorized to control ingress and egress from a local disaster area, and control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in that disaster area.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

Effective at 12:01 a.m., on Thursday, **December 30, 2021** ("Effective Date"), and continuing until modified or terminated by the Travis County Judge or as otherwise indicated below:

- 1. Public Health Emergency. That this Order is to continue the response to the local disaster declaration and public health emergency for Travis County.
- 2. Extension of Deadlines. Except for applications and permits subject to Title 30 of the City Code, all deadlines and expiration dates for site plans, subdivisions, zoning, building permits, and similar development applications or permits are extended until March 1, 2022, or the date they would have normally expired, whichever is later. All deadlines and expiration dates for an application or permit subject to Title 30 are extended until the later of March 1, 2022, the date they would have normally expired, or as authorized by an administrative extension granted by Travis County and the City. Nothing in this order precludes extensions otherwise authorized by County code, order, rule, or regulation.
- 3. Incorporation of Recitals and Prior Orders. This Order is issued in accordance with and incorporates by reference all declarations, findings, and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order. This Order replaces and supersedes all prior County Judge Emergency Orders related to COVID-19 restrictions, with the exception of Order 2021-10 Relating to Notices to Vacate, Eviction Proceedings and Orders 2021-05, 2021-08a and 2021-09a relating to COVID-19 requirements, which remain in effect.
- 4. The Travis County Clerk will post this Order on its website.
- 5. Savings Clause. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

Andy Brown County Judge

County of Travis, Texas

Filed with the Glerk of Traxis County, this 20 day of December, 2021.

Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk



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FILED AND RECORDED OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

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Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk Travis County, Texas

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