



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Everado "Ever" Villarreal
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
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RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hidalgo County Judge signs order loosening COVID-19 restrictions, but encourages continued vigilance

EDINBURG – Businesses and other establishments in Hidalgo County will no longer have facial covering or capacity restrictions beginning at midnight Wednesday to comply with state orders to open up Texas, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez said.

But under local orders signed Tuesday, Judge Cortez is recommending and strongly encouraging that residents and businesses in Hidalgo County continue to practice safety measures to combat the spread of the virus, including the use of facial coverings, limiting the number of people allowed in businesses, following hygienic measures and avoiding large crowds.

“I was hoping that we could keep some of these restrictions in place until after spring break because we have been headed in the right direction in limiting new cases,” Judge Cortez said. “But we are doing this to comply with the orders of Governor (Greg) Abbott. That’s why I continue to urge people to exercise caution, especially as we approach the Easter holiday.”

For those businesses that wish to continue mandating the use of facial coverings by its customers, Judge Cortez said protections exist, such as the use of the state trespassing law to deal with those who refuse to comply with business restrictions.

The five-page order strongly advises that people continue to follow safety guidelines set out by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

ATTACHMENT: Signed order

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus