



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

COUNTY OF EL PASO HEALTH AUTHORITY ORDERS AND GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR SALE STANDS TO INCLUDE FIREWORK SALES AND OTHERS

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CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

June 12, 2020

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The situation regarding COVID-19 in El Paso, Texas is continuously evolving and with the presence of community spread of COVID-19 in our community, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health's (DPH) Local Health Authority is issuing the following Orders and Guidance that must be followed to reduce the risk of exposure to and infection with COVID-19, as well as the protective measures which must be undertaken at outdoor markets and similar venues in El Paso County with the aim of protecting the health and well-being of all residents.

Transmission of coronavirus in general occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through contact with contaminated surfaces, but it is possible to get infected if one touches a contaminated surface and then touches their nose, eyes, or mouth. The risk of transmission appears to be proportional to the closeness and frequency of interaction between an infected individual and others who are not infected.

Outdoor sale stands (including firework stands) and other informal commerce activities are part of many traditions that have been passed from generation to generation and are a common practice in our region to buy or sell fireworks and other goods. However, these events may lead to increase transmission of the virus, putting considerable amounts of people at risk of getting infected if appropriate preventive measures are not followed.

Social Distancing and Other Public Health Interventions

- Outdoor sale stands should be carried out taking into account appropriate social distancing of at least 6-ft between display tables/stands and clients.
- Outdoor sale stands should limit the number of clients serviced at the same time, unless clients are 6-ft apart from each other.

Angela Mora – Interim Public Health Director
Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905
O: (915) 212-6564 | Email: Angela.Mora@elpasotexas.gov





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- All outdoor sale stands employees and public in general must wear a form of face covering.
- Discourage outdoor sale stand employees and the public in general from greeting others with physical contact (e.g., handshakes). Include this reminder on signs about social distancing.
- Vendors shall minimize manipulation of any goods or merchandise by the clients.
- Vendors should include in their marketing printed material to the public that anyone who is ill or considered to be an at-risk individual should stay home.
- Outdoor sale stands with tables for exhibiting merchandise should be placed to allow at least 6-ft between tables, booths or spaces.
- Walkways should be wide enough to provide ample way for people to walk in an organized manner in a single direction.
- Clear signs and displays around the outdoor market should be posted regarding the social distancing and face covering requirements.
- Encourage touchless payments and digital ordering to further minimize touching of writing implements and high touch surfaces.
- Display posters or signs reminding individuals that per County Judge Order, individuals shall not gather in groups larger than ten (10) (English and Spanish).
- Display posters and signs to frequently remind guests to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (English and Spanish). These messages may include information about:
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.
 - Reminders of facial hygiene and cleanliness, such as avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
 - Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

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- If soap and water are not readily available, people can use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Staff

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- Outdoor sale stands owners must adopt and implement a health screening policy for all employees, and establish protocols for employee exclusion if they develop any of the following symptoms:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeated shaking with chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of taste or smell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing		

- Outdoor sale stands owner or representatives should consider using a touchless infrared thermometer to check the temperature of employees each day.
- Employees with a temperature above 100°F or with any of the above symptoms are recommended to be sent home.
- Do not allow employees with new or worsening signs or symptoms as listed above to return to work until:
 - In the case of an employee who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - No fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 3 days (72 hours); **AND**
 - The individual has significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **AND**

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- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- In the case of an employee who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the employee has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

- All employees must wear a face covering while at work and interacting with other employees and the public in general.
- Employees should and wash hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use disinfectant hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Employees may consider using gloves and should be encouraged to wash hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use disinfectant hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Sanitation

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and equipment routinely throughout the day.
 - Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
 - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol to clean equipment buttons and touch screens.
- Practice hand hygiene frequently: wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Outdoor sale stand must ensure adequate amount of trash receptacles are placed around the stand.
- The owner of an outdoor sale stand shall provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use by employees and one for clients if hand washing station is not in close proximity. Vendors shall keep an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use at every vendor table

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or booth. If a vendor has more than one table or stand, owner shall place at least one hand sanitizer per booth/table.

- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces: including tables, handles, desks, payment machines, etc.
- Frequently disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated with germs with EPA-approved products effective against emerging viral pathogens to include the virus that causes COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, use of personal protective equipment). A list of products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens is available.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH
Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

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