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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso, Texas

City Council Ordinances, Health Authority Orders Aim to Reduce Spread of COVID-19

Late this afternoon the El Paso City Council unanimously agreed to enact an ordinance aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately tonight all bars, lounges, taverns, arcades, and private clubs shall close and remain closed for at least two weeks.

In addition, restaurants must reduce their capacity to half of their maximum occupancy. Restaurant owners should also ensure a maximum of six persons per table with at least six feet between tables. Restaurants which are combined with a bar area may remain open but the bar area should only be used to extend the food service area while maintaining the social distancing requirements.

Dr. Hector Ocaranza presented the plan to City Council who acknowledged the fact that financial assistance and housing and utility security will be needed in order to minimize the effect of the loss of income to those affected. Ocaranza says the decision was difficult but necessary during this pandemic.

“These emergency orders are being implemented to help halt the spread of COVID-19. For these measures to be as effective as possible, it is important that residents of all ages answer the call to remain at home unless they need to leave as a necessity,” Ocaranza said. “Our public health team and City Council are doing everything in their power to ensure the community’s health, and everyone must do their part as well to help stop this pandemic.”

Ocaranza also issued orders related to workplaces, senior centers, and day care centers.

Further information and details are available at www.EPHealth.com at the COVID-19 page.

[MESSAGE FROM DR. OCARANZA](#)

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