



# Aurelio Guerra, Jr. Willacy County Judge

576 W. Main Ave, Room 152, Raymondville, Texas 78580

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**FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

JOINT WILLACY COUNTY JUDGE AND WILLACY COUNTY HEALTH AUTHORITY  
**SEVENTH AMENDED** EMERGENCY HEALTH CONTROL ORDER REGARDING ALL  
SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT WILLACY COUNTY AND  
ATTENDING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OCCURRING OUTSIDE OF WILLACY COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Willacy County Judge Aurelio Guerra issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which thereafter on March 23, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Willacy County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Willacy County Emergency Management Plan and extended the Declaration of Local Disaster, and said Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency being thereafter renewed on January 14, 2021 by the Commissioners Court of Willacy County;

**WHEREAS**, the Willacy County Judge, Willacy County Health Authority, Willacy County Emergency Management Coordinator, and Emergency Management Team continue to consult with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Willacy County school officials, and based on the recommendation of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) actions are aimed at protecting the health and safety of Willacy County residents and necessary to address the spread of COVID-19 throughout Willacy County; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 4, 2021, Governor Abbott renewed the disaster declaration for COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of Texans as it continues to pose an imminent threat for all counties in the State of Texas as Governor Abbott has done since March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Willacy County continues to experience a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates throughout Willacy County's neighboring counties continue rise, which are imminent threats to the health and safety of Willacy County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Dr. Mario Sanchez as

the Willacy County Local Health Authority and pursuant to his duties, has the authority to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the jurisdiction of the County of Willacy, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the authority of Section 81.082(a) of the of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and Title 25, Section 97.6(h) of the Texas Administrative Code, unless specifically preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Local Health Authority, who has consulted with DSHS regarding this Public Health Emergency, has supervisory authority and control over the administration of communicable disease control measures within its jurisdiction, to include public school systems, when in his opinion control measures are necessary to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency created by and related to COVID-19, demonstrates a continuing substantial and uncontrolled spread of the disease in the Willacy County community, including Willacy schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY** and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on March 12, 2021, unless modified, rescinded, or superseded, the Willacy County Judge and the Willacy County Health Authority hereby impose the following control measures:

1. All school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs, exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, **within Willacy County**, SHALL continue to be allowed to take place **WITH NO SPECTATORS**.
2. Only persons who are necessary to conduct, officiate, participate, or otherwise essential for the school-sponsored event or activity to proceed will be allowed on the premises. School personnel, law enforcement, emergency personnel, and individuals contracted by school officials to broadcast and/or livestream events and activities, will be allowed, as necessary.
3. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that all school-sponsored events and activities, including but not limited to clubs, sports, fairs exhibitions, and academic or athletic competitions, being held outside of Willacy County, take place **WITH NO SPECTATORS**.


**This Order shall remain in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. March 12, 2021**, and may be modified, extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended by applicable law depending on the ongoing evaluation of circumstances regarding the Public Health Emergency related to COVID-19 cases in the County of Willacy, Texas; or preempted by the Texas Department of State Health Services.


If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order, or any application of it to any school system, or circumstance related to this Order is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

To the greatest extent possible, this Order shall be interpreted as consistent with and supplemental to any executive order issued by the Texas Governor including the recommendations in this control order.

All provisions of the executive orders of the Texas Governor either existing or as, if and when issued, which are made applicable to all jurisdictions by law shall be automatically incorporated into and constitute terms of this Order, enforceable as if set forth herein without necessity for the issuance of any further orders.

**ORDERED** and **EFFECTIVE** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021 at 3:00 am/pm.

  
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Aurelio Guerra  
Willacy County Judge

  
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Mario Sanchez, M.D.  
Willacy County Health Authority