



**A.J. Leago**

**MADISON COUNTY JUDGE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### March 20, 2020

County restricting public gatherings of more than ten (10) persons and limiting food services, per federal and state guidelines.

#### MADISON COUNTY, TEXAS

County Judge Tony Leago and Madison County Commissioners enacted an order effective March 20, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. restricting public gatherings of more than ten (10) persons and closing all dine-in restaurants and bars except restaurants may still provide take-out orders, delivery, drive through window service and curbside pick-up service.

This decision is intended to reduce the risk of community spread and protect the health of our residents. This decision is prompted by the Executive Order of Governor Abbott.

These decisions did not come lightly, but are the most prudent we can make at this time. By no means is this to create panic, but is out of an abundance of caution to meet the CDC guidelines and the information we have received from the medical community, the CDC and The Texas Department of State Health Services about social distancing.

- The latest state guidelines were released Thursday, March 19, 2020 and include:
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people
- Avoid discretionary travel like shopping trips and social visits
- Avoid bars and restaurants and food courts – instead use drive-through, pick-up and delivery options.
- Do not visit aged care facilities
- If you work in health care, pharmaceutical or food supply, “you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.”
- If someone in your house has tested positive for COVID-19, the entire household should stay home
- Older people and those with underlying health conditions should stay home.

The administration has called for these guidelines to be in effect for fifteen (15) days in an effort to flatten the curve of the virus – meaning reducing the number of infections to prevent overwhelming medical care services. Madison County is following the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control along with the federal and state government to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We continue to closely monitor the situation and will continue providing regular updates to the public.