



Veterinary Health Advisory Network (VHAN) March 24, 2020

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner Issue an Official Order- Stay Home, Work Safe

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and local health authorities have issued an official order advising non-essential businesses to shut down and for residents to stay home except for essential activities. This order will go into effect today at 11:59 p.m., March 24, 2020, and will remain in place until 11:59 p.m., April 3, 2020. The full text of the order can be found [here](#).

Veterinary clinics are considered essential healthcare operations and may remain open.

Below are excerpts of the Judge's order pertaining to veterinary operations:

Essential Healthcare Operations. Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. **Healthcare operations also include veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals.** This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare.

These infection control precautions apply to all Essential Businesses:

- (1) Practice social distancing by requiring patrons, visitors, and employees to be separated by six (6) feet, to the extent feasible
- (2) Provide access to hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol
- (3) Post a sign in a conspicuous place at the public entrance to the venue instructing members of the public not to enter if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever or cough
- (4) Adhere to other general communicable disease control recommendations by public health authorities.

Residents can email stayhome@cjo.hctx.net for information/clarification.

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