



**County Judge Lina Hidalgo**  
D I R E C T O R

March 31, 2020

Dear Harris County Mayors,

We continue to see an alarming acceleration of COVID-19 case counts throughout our hospital systems and increased strain on hospital capacity. Texas Medical Center hospital leaders unanimously advise us that our efforts to drastically reduce public gatherings and activities remain critically important. Expert projections expect the case count to continue increasing through at least the month of April. For this reason, at 3:00pm today I am extending Harris County's Stay Home-Work Safe Order to 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2020. Of course, should the situation change positively before then, we will adjust accordingly.

Since first issuing this Order on March 24th, we have received many questions about what constitutes "essential" among businesses and workers. My office will continue to field such questions and assist with any enforcement issues that may arise. We have added an FAQ page to [readyharris.org/stayhome](http://readyharris.org/stayhome) and have been responding to waiver requests and following expert advice.

These steps are incredibly difficult for our community and our economy, but they are the only option if we are to prioritize the health and safety of our residents and heed healthcare leaders' advice. Stakeholders from throughout Harris County government are continuing to work to mitigate the impact of these measures - such as deferring delinquent tax payments and eviction hearings, and exploring support for renters and small businesses.

During these uncharted times, the leadership of our city mayors is critical to protect millions of residents. Thank you for your support and for advocating for your communities and your first responders. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lina Hidalgo".

Lina Hidalgo  
Harris County Judge