



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2020

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### COVID-19 Closure Order

**New Braunfels, TX** — On Thursday afternoon, in response to the COVID – 19 pandemic, the City of New Braunfels announced that all bars, restaurant dining rooms, gyms, movie theatres, bowling alleys and indoor amusement facilities must close to the public beginning at 11:59 PM. The initial order will remain in effect until April 3 but may be extended.

In announcing the closure, Mayor Barron Casteel stated, “We took this extraordinary step to ensure public health and in support of Governor Abbott’s Executive Order this afternoon. I appreciate the local restaurants and establishments that have already chosen to proactively close, recognizing this public health emergency. We understand the impact that this order will have on local businesses and employees, but we must join them and act to protect the health of the citizens and visitors.”

The order will allow for takeout, delivery, drive-in, room service, or drive-through services but requires businesses to adhere to social distancing requirements of six (6) feet between persons for any waiting area or queue. Bars, lounges, nightclubs, taverns, microbreweries, micro-distilleries, wineries, private clubs, gyms or health studios, indoor commercial amusement businesses, bowling alleys, bingo parlors and theaters must all close effective 11:59 PM on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

In addition, the orders require the cancellation of any gathering of 10 people or more within the City. The orders allow for several exemptions including grocery stores, retail establishments, medical facilities, childcare facilities, office space, hotels, residential buildings and manufacturing facilities.

City staff will work to educate business owners and the public through the end of the week and attempt to gain compliance. Enforcement mechanisms will be instituted if we are unable to gain compliance.

We know there will be many questions moving forward as we continue to navigate this ever-changing situation. We invite you to visit our website and social media sites for updated information or to call the main City Hall phone number at 830-221-4000 for additional information.

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