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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## City Amends Local Emergency Directive

**EL PASO, Texas** — The City of El Paso issued the Fourth Amendment to the Fourth Local Emergency Directive related to COVID-19 in our community.

The Fourth Amendment shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 27, 2020, to include the following amendment:

**City Facilities:**

- All City parks are open to the public to include playgrounds and fitness equipment.

**Local Health Authority Orders:**

The Directive continues to integrate the Local Health Authority's Orders, which can be found online at [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org).

Failure to abide by the Directive is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. Face covering violations are subject to a verbal or written warning for a first-time violator, and a person's second violation shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

Among the Local Health Authority's Orders are the following:

**Release from Home Self-Isolation:**

All individuals with symptoms or not, must remain home in self-isolation for at least 10 days from the initial onset of symptoms or date of positive COVID-19 test. Individuals may only be released from home self-isolation in the following circumstances:

- **Symptomatic Patients with lab confirmed COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:**
  - At least 10 days have passed from initial onset of symptoms, AND
  - Patients have been at least 24 hours without fever without using any fever reducing medications, AND
  - Improvement of symptoms occurs (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc.).
- **Asymptomatic Patients with lab confirmed COVID-19:**
  - At least 10 days from laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, AND
  - No symptoms.
- **Symptomatic household members of a COVID-19 lab confirmed patient:** Symptomatic patients (not tested) in a household with a COVID-19 confirmed member should be considered infected and may be released from isolation when all the criteria have been met:
  - Isolate for at least 10 days from initial onset of symptoms, AND
  - No fever for at least 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications, AND
  - Improvement of symptoms occurs.

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- **Immunocompromised patients who have lab confirmed COVID-19:**

Symptomatic patients who have a weakened immune system due to medications, disease, etc. may discontinue isolations as follows:

- Isolate for at least 20 days, AND
- No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, AND
- Improvement of symptoms, AND
- Repeat testing may be performed if recommended by Infection Disease Specialist.

**Workplaces:**

- Employers shall implement adequate safety measures and must adhere to the Health Authority Orders for Workplaces which is found at <http://epstrong.org/health-orders.php>

**Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities:**

- All nursing homes and assisted living facilities shall adhere to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Opening-Up America Guidance.
- All nursing homes and assisted living facilities shall conduct full decontamination of a facility after a cluster (two (2) COVID-19 positive persons or more) has been identified. A facility may submit a request for decontamination support to the Emergency Operations Center for consideration.
- All nursing homes and assisted living facilities shall conduct baseline COVID-19 testing on all residents and staff.
  - If the test results for all residents and staff are negative, facilities shall perform monthly testing for a period of three (3) months.
  - If at any point a facility identifies a positive case, weekly testing shall be performed.

**Order for Testing Staff at Facilities that Provide Care for the Elderly:**

(Excludes nursing homes and assisted living facilities)

- Facilities that provide care for the elderly (excluding nursing homes and assisted living facilities) shall perform testing on all of their employees, in the manner described below, to identify any staff who may be positive for COVID-19.
  - Testing shall be performed every other week on all staff who have never tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Testing shall be performed every other week until all staff members test negative.
  - If, or once all, staff tests negative, then testing should be performed monthly for a period of three (3) months.
  - A determination regarding the continuation of staff testing shall be made by the Local Health Authority after the third month of testing and after consideration of the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in the County of El Paso.
  - Facilities are required to keep a record of their testing data, which must be provided to the Local Health Authority to determine the need for continued testing.

**Homeless Service Providers:**

- Facilities that provide homeless services shall implement adequate safety measures and must adhere to the Health Authority Orders for Homeless Service Providers which is found at <http://epstrong.org/health-orders.php>

For more information, visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org).

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