

Memo

To: McAllen Businesses
From: The McAllen Chamber of Commerce
Date: March 26, 2020
RE: Request to be Deemed an “Essential” Business

Under the County Emergency Order issued by Judge Cortez on March, effective starting today, (which was adopted by McAllen Mayor Jim Darling), certain businesses are deemed “essential” as defined in the order. If you are uncertain if your business is exempt under the “essential” business / service exception, please review the order in its entirety. See link: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2630/Coronavirus-Updates>

If your business is not specifically listed, but you believe your business should be exempt, you may contact the County at (956) 292-7765 or the City at 311 (during business hours) to seek guidance.

If you are seeking guidance from the City of McAllen, the City requires that businesses who request to be deemed “essential” include in their request the following key elements: *The specific services, operations, or processes that are being performed by the business and which the business believes are essential, and should be deemed “essential” by the City of McAllen.*

PLEASE NOTE: Even if your business is operating under the “essential” business / services exemption, the City of McAllen **requires every essential business that is approved, to continue to follow the CDC guidelines and Hidalgo County’s request for social distancing and safe hygiene practices.**

For more information, see the County Order (linked above) and also Resources for Businesses and Employers can be found at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

These recommendations include (among others):

- If your lobby (or other common areas) remain open, limit the number of people in those spaces to no more than ten people at a time and with more than six feet of separation. Place make available hand sanitizers at the entrance to your lobby.

- No handshaking.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public space or have blown your nose, are coughing, or are sneezing.
- Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets faucets, and sinks.

Once a business has been determined to be “essential” by the City’s Emergency Management Coordinator, if requested, a letter will be given to the business stating that its operations are deemed “essential.”