

# **Q&A: Stay At Home Order**

Revised April 9, 2020

---

Please be aware that during this unprecedented circumstance, the conditions provided in this Q&A are subject to change at any time. Please visit the city's website periodically for revisions and/or updates. We ask for your patience and compliance as we try to get through the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic together.

## **What can I do?**

- Perform tasks essential to your health and safety, or to the health and safety of your family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies need to work from home).
- Obtain necessary services or supplies for yourself and your family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supply, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences).
- Go to work at an Essential Business (as defined in the Order) or work from home at a non-essential business.
- Care for a family member or pet in another household.
- Engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, or running).
- Exercise fundamental Constitutional rights.

## **What is still open (considered Essential)?**

- Government Services: Hospitals/clinics and healthcare operations; police stations; fire stations; garbage/solid waste collection and removal; and utilities (water, sewer, gas and electrical); defense and national security related operations.

- Healthcare Facilities: Hospitals; clinics; dentists; chiropractor offices; optometry offices; pharmacies; healthcare suppliers; mental health providers; substance abuse service providers; blood banks; medical research; laboratory services; and any other related healthcare facility.
- Food: Grocery stores; warehouse stores; farmers markets; food banks; convenience stores; liquor stores; food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock; and take-out, drive-through, and delivery restaurants.
- Schools: Public and private educational institutions, only for the purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions.
- Childcare Services: Childcare facilities providing services that enable essential employees to work as permitted.
- Maintenance Services: Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians, residential and commercial construction; cleaning services, and others who provide services necessary for maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and essential businesses.
- Animal Services: Veterinary care; pet food and supply stores; grooming if necessary for the health of the animal; pet daycare, but only for employees of essential businesses.
- Financial Institutions: Depository lenders, such as banks and credit unions can operate. Non-depository lenders, such as payday lenders, must close. Payroll services can also continue to operate.
- Other Essential Facilities/Services: Laundromats/laundry services; gas stations; auto supply; auto and bicycle repair; internet and telecommunications systems; airport operations; oil refining; hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities; cemeteries and funeral services.; churches can conduct services via teleconference or video.
- A full list of essential services can be found at the following website: [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

## **What is considered Non-Essential?**

- Golf courses
- Cosmetology salons, massage establishments
- Tattoo studios, piercing studios
- Fitness and exercise gyms or similar facilities.
- Elective medical, surgical, or dental procedures that has been identified as an “elective” procedure by a healthcare or dental professional or medical facility and can be postponed or cancelled without jeopardizing your health and safety.
- Attending a public or private gathering of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit. This does not prohibit the gathering of members of a household or living unit, provided the individuals comply with the social distancing requirements.

## **Is Jamaica Beach City Hall closed?**

The City of Jamaica Beach is committed to providing all essential services, but to advance the public health goal of limiting person-to-person contact (“Social Distancing”), our City Hall Offices will be closed to the public. As an effort to further decrease the spread of this contagious virus, the city reduced the City Hall operating hours to: Monday-Thursday 9:00AM to 3:00PM and closed on Fridays. The City of Jamaica Beach encourages any city business that can be handled online or by phone to be done in that manner.

## **How do I pay a water bill, court ticket or for a building permit?**

Water Utility, Municipal Court and Building Permit payments can be mailed, dropped off in the payment box located behind the City Hall building (box is accessible from your vehicle) or paid online at one of the following links:

Water Bills - <https://www.eonlinebill.com/bapp/jamaica/index>

Building Permits - [https://certifiedpayments.net/PaymentWizard\\_3.aspx](https://certifiedpayments.net/PaymentWizard_3.aspx)

Municipal Court Tickets - [https://certifiedpayments.net/PaymentWizard\\_3.aspx](https://certifiedpayments.net/PaymentWizard_3.aspx)

### **Can I still apply for water service or for a building permit?**

Yes, all City of Jamaica Beach forms are available online at: <http://www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us/Online%20Services.htm>. Completed forms can be mailed, dropped off in the payment box located behind the City Hall building or emailed to [cityadmin@ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us](mailto:cityadmin@ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us).

### **How do I report a water break when City Hall is closed?**

To report a water emergency (i.e. water break) after hours, please call the city's water contractor (USW) at (832) 756-2143.

### **Is the City of Galveston closing access to the Island (i.e. causeway, San Luis Pass, Ferry)?**

No. The City of Jamaica Beach is not aware of any discussions about closing access to the Island.

### **Is the beach closed in Jamaica Beach?**

On March 30, 2020, the Mayor issued an Order closing the beach access to vehicular traffic. Individuals may walk to the beach with members of their household or living unit, provided that individuals comply with social distancing requirements. Please also be aware that there is no on-street parking permitted on the south side of FM 3005 (Jamaica Beach Rd). However, parking is available at City Hall on the north side of FM 3005.

The City of Jamaica Beach has not elected to fully close our beach, because unlike the City of Galveston, Jamaica Beach does not have a seawall for residents to exercise, walk or jog on. The City will continue to monitor the situation and as long as users continue to comply with the social distancing requirements, we will allow our beach to remain open to pedestrians. Our primary concern is the health of our citizens. The City does not promote people to use the beach for anything other than essential activities, if other measures need to be taken to protect our community then those decisions will be made immediately.

## **Is Jamaica Beach still allowing Short Term Rentals?**

The City of Jamaica Beach has not considered a ban on vacation rentals.

This topic being a concern for a number of residents, the City wanted to make sure we did our due diligence before making a decision on this subject matter.

The City's first course of action was directing our city staff to contact every STR owner and/or management company to survey their rental activities. During the surveying, people were asked: 1) if they had any guest arriving from a restricted state; 2) if they were made aware of someone within a party being ill; 3) had 10 or less occupants; and 4) they were informed that everyone must comply with the Orders issued by the State, County and Mayor (i.e. social distancing, staying at home, except for essential business or essential activities). The results from the survey indicated 25 out of 170 properties had rentals within the months of April and/or May. The remaining properties had either suspended rental services or they were being occupied by the owner/owner's family.

The City also contacted the office of the Attorney General to seek an opinion on whether or not the temporary ban on STR would conflict with the Governor's Executive Order GA-14. The City received a verbal response that a temporary ban on STR could very well be in conflict with Executive Order GA-14.

In addition, the City made a similar request to the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to seek their opinion on whether or not STR's fall under the category of essential services. The City received an e-mail response from TDEM affirming that STR's are covered as an essential service, but the STR's must follow social distancing guidelines.

## **How do I prove that I am allowed to be outside?**

At this time, there is no requirement that you have to prove that you are allowed to be outside your residence. The Order presumes that citizens will adhere to their civic duty and follow the Order for the greater good of the community by leaving their residences for essential business and/or essential activities only.

## **How can I help others or what if I need assistance?**

The Galveston County Health District is asking if you are in need or can provide help to others, to complete the form at the below link. It will help them organize the resources that can provide help to those who need it.

<https://sodzointernational.org/covid-19-connections>

## **Where can I find additional information related to COVID-19?**

Please visit the city's website at [www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us](http://www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us) for helpful information, links, orders and notices related to COVID-19.

Other recommended sites are the following:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

Galveston County Health District - <https://www.gchd.org/about-us/news-and-events/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Gulf Coast Center -

<http://www.ci.jamaicabeach.tx.us/CORONAVIRUS%20GCC%20COVID%2019%20social%20media%20hotline.pdf>

Small Business Administration - <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

Texas Department of State Health Services - <https://dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) - <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>