

I write to supplement my previous directions considering the Amended Order issued by the Dallas County Judge on Sunday, March 22, 2020. The Amended Order goes into effect on Monday, March 23 at 11:59 pm. My directions apply to all churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas whether inside or outside the limits of Dallas County. All provisions of my previous directions that are not modified herein remain in full force and effect. The Amended Order is attached. To the extent there is any conflict between my directions and the Amended Order, the text of the Amended Order prevails. Please direct any questions on interpretation or implementation to the Canon to the Ordinary.

**1. Work From Home.** Church staffs are NOT exempt from the requirement to work from home. The Diocesan Office will be respecting this order and I direct you to work from home and to close church offices and direct church staff to work from home, with the sole exception of provisions for worship services outlined below. Amended Order at 1(b).

**2. Public and Private Gatherings.** The prohibition on “public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit” includes weddings, funerals and other church services except for the online services permitted by the Amended Order. Amended Order at 1(c).

**3. Online Worship Services.** As provided in the Amended Order, “Religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconference. Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to ten (10) people or less when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services, and all individuals must follow the Social Distancing Guidelines including the six foot social distancing.” Amended Order at 1(e).

**4. Childcare Facilities.** If your church owns or operates a preschool, daycare or other childcare facility, you may keep it open to the extent necessary to provide childcare to employees exempted in the Amended Order to enable them to work. Amended Order at 2(b)(2)(viii)(“For purposes of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means: ... (viii) Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.”). A full explanation of who is an “exempt employee” of an “Essential Business” may be found in the Amended Order, but in summary, Essential Businesses are:

- **Essential Healthcare Operations.** Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare.
- **Essential Government Functions.** All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- **Essential Critical Infrastructure.** Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) including public works construction, residential and commercial construction, airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), financial institutions, defense and national security-related operations, essential manufacturing operations.
- **Essential Retail.** Food service providers, including grocery stores, warehouse stores, big-box stores, bodegas, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience stores, farmers' markets that sell food products and household staples. Food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock. Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. ...  
Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers. Gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities. Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.

- **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.** Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.
- **Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.** Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries. Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses. Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities. Businesses that supply other essential businesses with support or supplies needed to operate.
- **News Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services

If you intend to continue to operate a childcare facility to serve the people identified above, you must notify me by close of business on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and provide me (i) with a list of measures you will undertake to ensure that you serve only workers identified in the Amended Order; and (2) your protocols for assuring safe operations during the pendency of the Amended Order.