CITY OF MERIDIAN
EXECUTIVE ORDER COVID-19 2020
CIVIL EMERGENCY PLAN

Based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the following Executive Order further defines and amends the previous Emergency Proclamation issued by the City of Meridian pertaining to COVID-19.

IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS AND WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE ON NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES.

The City of Meridian, Mississippi identifies the critical infrastructure sectors and the essential workers needed to maintain the services and functions that our citizens depend on daily and that need to be able to operate resiliently during the COVID-19 pandemic response. These sectors and workers have been identified in the attached documents.

The following businesses are deemed essential:

- Hospitals, nursing homes, health clinics, drug stores, pharmacies, banks, grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, military installations, security and emergency response operations.
- Construction or repair of commercial, residential, public works buildings and projects
- Building supplies and hardware stores
- Businesses in the supply chain for essential business
- Professional services which serve said companies
- Convenience stores and discount stores
- Daycare centers
- Gas stations and auto-repair shops
- Post offices and shipping businesses
- Veterinary clinics and pet stores
- Farmers’ markets and food banks
- Businesses that provide necessities to shelters and economically disadvantaged people
- Education including educators supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities for the purpose of facilitating distance learning
- Food processing – Agriculture feed mills, warehousing, storage, and distribution
- Professional services including legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services (including appraisal and title services)
• Media including newspapers, digital news sites, television, radio and other media services
• All other businesses included in State of Mississippi Executive Order No. 1463

All essential businesses are reminded to follow all federal state and local guidelines, proclamations, ordinances and orders related to COVID-19 response in their operations. Essential businesses are encouraged to telework when and where possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, I PERCY BLAND, III, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME PURSUANT TO 45-17-1 THROUGH 45-17-13 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED CIVIL EMERGENCIES, HEREBY ISSUE THIS PROCLAMATION THAT A CIVIL EMERGENCY EXISTS IN THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI DUE TO THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE, DO HEREBY ORDER MEASURES FOR THE NEXT 14 DAYS BEGINNING AT 5 P.M. ON MARCH 27, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL CURFEW

A general curfew has been issued on March 23, 2020 from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. except for essential travel by those over the age of 18 years.

Measures for the next 14 days beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020

1. Social distancing should be enforced throughout the City – stay at least 6 feet away from others to the extent possible.
2. During this emergency, funeral services are recommended to be held on property of a funeral home or in the City of Meridian. Regardless of the location, all funeral services shall be with a strictly enforced 50-person limit.
3. Religious entities including faith-based facilities, secular non-profit organizations and entities and groups, religious gatherings provided that they adhere to the CDC and the Mississippi Department of Health recommendations and guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
4. Most places that have public assembly such as theaters, churches, places of entertainment, and other places where the public gathers from time to time have already adopted policies of closing or limiting the number of persons allowed inside at the same time. There should not be gatherings of more than 10 people at an event. None of the abovementioned places shall allow gatherings of more than 10 people for the next 14 days.
5. Restaurants – There shall be no in-house dining or available sitting areas for the public, per Mississippi State Department of Health. Pickup, drive-through, delivery still permitted.
6. Bars, lounges and nightclubs shall close, except to the extent that such establishments may only provide take-out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services for food or beverage as allowed by law.
7. Liquor stores shall have no more than 10 people inside at any one time and must close at 9 p.m.
8. Barber shops, hair and nail salons – only permitted with 10 or fewer people inside the business at any one time and shall close at 9 p.m.

9. All businesses employing 10 or more persons in one business location must follow CDC and Mississippi Department of Health guidance and implement safeguards to prevent spread of Coronavirus.

10. Violations of this Proclamation will be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to Sec. 45-17-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and Sec. 1-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Meridian, Mississippi and up to a $300 fine.

Businesses not listed as essential shall close on March 27, 2020 for 14 days unless they comply with CDC and MSDH guidelines and not be open to the general public other than by curbside to go, drive through, telework from home, or similar means where spread of the COVID-19 virus can be minimized and prevented. Examples of non-essential businesses include primarily personal care and leisure services that you can put off in the interest of the greater public health follow:

- Theaters
- Gyms and recreation centers
- Museums
- Bowling alleys and skating rinks
- Sporting and concert venues

Any businesses may seek exemption by separate order of the Mayor or a majority of the Meridian City Council upon good cause shown.

These lists of classifications are not exhaustive and may evolve as this fluid state of emergency continues.

THIS ORDER SHALL BE IN EFFECT BEGINNING FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 AT 5 P.M. AND CONTINUE FOR A PERIOD OF 14 DAYS.

THIS THE 24th DAY OF MARCH 2020.

PERCY BLAND, III, MAYOR
CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:

BRANDYE LATIMER, CITY CLERK

CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI