



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 1, 2020

NOTICE

Texas “Stay Home” Order

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, has issued an executive order directing implementing essential services and activities protocols for the entire state. The protocols direct all residents to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. The protocols allow exceptions for essential activities and services. Examples of these essential services include healthcare, grocery stores, banking and financial services, utilities, child care for essential service employees, and government services. A copy of the Governor’s order is available at https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-14_Statewide_Essential_Service_and_Activity_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-31-2020.pdf.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in the state of Texas. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of the Governor’s order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- COVID-19 in Texas:
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador