



3805 Adam Grubb
Lake Worth, TX 76135-3509
Phone: 817-237-1211
Fax: 817-237-1333

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Across the entire country, cities are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. The City of Lake Worth is acting to limit the community spread of COVID-19 while also listening closely to local businesses who are attempting to adapt during this difficult time.

The Lake Worth community has adhered to the recently implemented social distancing measures, and we, thankfully, have not yet had community spread of COVID-19 in Lake Worth. However, there continues to be community spread of COVID-19 throughout North Texas and the rest of the country, and the City of Lake Worth is taking additional steps to minimize the risk to our community.

Starting March 19, 2020, the City of Lake Worth is enacting a mandatory reduction in the occupancy limits of local businesses, reducing current allowed occupancy by 50%, or no more than 125 individuals, whichever is less. These occupancy limits apply to the following locations:

Hotel meeting spaces and ballrooms, event centers, retail stores, convenience stores, plazas, churches and shopping malls.

This 50% occupancy limit does not apply to areas not listed above, including office buildings, government buildings, critical infrastructure such as airports and transit facilities, residential buildings, grocery stores, manufacturing locations, nonprofit service providers, homeless and emergency shelters, day cares and medical facilities.

A restaurant with or without drive-in or drive-through services; drive in restaurant; drive-through restaurant or microbrewery, micro-distillery, or winery may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-in or drive through services as allowed by law.

All restaurants dine in, bars, lounge, or tavern; commercial amusement, theater; gym and private club are hereby ordered closed.

If you are not included in the list of specific places of business, then you are likely considered a private business.

Example, if a business is allowed 160 individuals, then 80 individuals would be the maximum capacity, including employees. However, if a business may have 600 individuals, they would now be limited to no more than 125 individuals to comply with the Emergency Declaration.

Businesses can refer to their Certificate of Occupancy to determine their current occupancy limits.

We encourage all to follow CDC and OSHA guidelines found at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

The City of Lake Worth's Fire Department stands ready to enforce occupancy limits, and we are asking businesses to be diligent in their enforcement and mindful of the public health implications.

Once again, we urge the public to avoid public places when possible and to stay home, limiting public contact. We will continue to work on resources to support our community during this unprecedented time.

For more information please visit <https://www.lakeworthtx.org/fire-department/pages/protect-lake-worth>

Visit us at www.lakeworthtx.org