

Mitigation Plan

The county views mitigation as an important part of managing continued COVID-19 outbreaks as well as community spread. At the absolute minimum, our county will enforce the baseline mitigation standards directed by the governor through his various directives and associated guidelines, as detailed further in the next section. Additionally, our contact tracing and case investigation efforts have highlighted further areas where we believe additional county and local mitigation efforts may help to minimize the spread of the virus.

As described in the jurisdictional assessment attached previously, our contact tracing and case investigation efforts show three sources of spread for the COVID-19 virus:

- retail and service outlets
- recreation and dining
- private gatherings

We believe that many of the existing statewide restrictions and requirements such as face coverings, capacity limits, and social distancing requirements are all essential to our success as a region and as a state, but we would also recommend and request approval for implement some modifications within our county in order to address the specific sources of infection that we are finding. These are outlined below.

Retails and Service Outlets: These locations are essential to our economy as well as with maintaining quality of life and yet they continually also appear as a significant source of infection in our contact tracing efforts. The statewide directives provide an critical baseline for our mitigation efforts by ensuring public and private entities observe face covering and capacity requirements, and it is our belief that further restrictions are not required to address this potential source of spread. Instead, we propose the following:

Public/Private Partnership	Through a partnership with business groups, the county is establishing a program for local businesses to conduct a self-assessment and commit to complying with COVID-19 best practices. This will be executed through a public/private partnership and will be accompanied by an outreach campaign to receive buy-in from local businesses and the community.
Reporting Requirements	Although we do not believe that additional mitigation measures would be necessarily beneficial to decreasing the spread of the virus at retail and service outlets, we do believe that a self-reporting requirement will be beneficial. This proposal would require public and private entities to report to the health district in the event that they have three confirmed cases that occurred at their location. This would not automatically result in closure of their business, but would trigger engagement from appropriate

	local agencies in order to provide support and mitigation measures.
Enforcement	As noted in our enforcement plan in the following section, the county’s ability to enforce existing directives is essential to our efforts to stop the spread of this virus. In this way, enforcement not only ensures that existing mitigation measures are effective, but also serves as one as well.

Recreation and Dining: These locations and establishments are similarly essential to our economy, and also to addressing the mental health needs of our community. In a prolonged pandemic, our constituents need ways of getting outside, of getting together with friends, and other forms of social interaction, all in responsible ways. As with retail and service outlets outlined above, keeping these locations and venues open to our residents and visitors is essential, and we propose the same mitigation measures: a public/private partnership, reporting requirements, and enforcement as detail further below.

Gatherings: As with many other communities in our state, our county has found that private gatherings serve as a potential source of community spread of COVID-19. Our contact tracing and case investigation efforts show that these gatherings span the spectrum from family events like birthdays, funerals, and holidays, to large-scale gatherings in party houses. The mitigation measures outlined below are intended to ensure that our community is properly educated in the risks these gatherings provide and also to ensuring that gatherings occur in areas that are more easily regulated than party houses. In this way, the mitigation measures remain largely the same, however some caveats and additions apply.

Community-based Testing	In order to ensure that we fully understand as much as we can about the spread of the virus in our community, the county is implementing a plan that will increase community-based testing efforts locally.
Public Education	The county has set aside \$300,000 in CARES Act dollars in order to drive a comprehensive, multi-lingual advertisement campaign in order to share concerns regarding gatherings and educate the public on various statewide and countywide restrictions and requirements.
Reopening Bars and Taverns	Our county is one of four in the state that remains at an elevated risk level for COVID-19, and therefore bars, taverns, wineries, and breweries remain closed. It is our belief that these locations provide a better outlet for gatherings than private gatherings in homes, and therefore reopening bars serves as a mitigation measure. In order to ensure we have buy-in from local businesses, we have engaged local bar owners to develop a set of standards that will allow them to remain compliant.

Enforcement	The local police have set aside funding for overtime to provide for “party car” enforcement. This will allow law enforcement to engage in “party house” events that are potentially violating the gathering restrictions. Additionally, the County Commission will also be considering fines for individuals not complying with mask and social distancing requirements at an upcoming meeting.
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Enforcement Plan

As noted previously, the county views enforcement as at least as important as the mitigation measures themselves. Effective local enforcement will require collaboration between all jurisdictions and use of all appropriate local resources in order to minimize the spread of the virus. Our enforcement structure and operational model is provided below.

State Enforcement Structure	
Legal framework:	Declaration of Emergency, Emergency Directives, Guidance
Operational framework:	Enforcement agencies monitor and report statewide for compliance and issue citations for violations as appropriate.
Information sharing:	Enforcement agencies will report to the public on activities through the Task Force. Additionally, public health will share contact tracing information regarding potential exposures to the appropriate regulatory body.
County Enforcement Structure	
Legal framework:	Declaration of Emergency, Emergency Ordinance enforcing State Directives as well as County mitigation measures, Local Guidance
Operational framework:	Enforcement agencies monitor for compliance and issue citations for violations as appropriate.
Information sharing:	Enforcement agencies will report to the public on activities through the Task Force. Additionally, public health will share contact tracing information regarding potential exposures to the appropriate regulatory body.
City Enforcement Structure	
Legal framework:	Declaration of Emergency, Emergency Ordinance enforcing State Directives as well as County and City mitigation measures, Local Guidance
Operational framework:	Enforcement agencies monitor for compliance and issue citations for violations as appropriate.
Information sharing:	Enforcement agencies will report to the public on activities through the Task Force. Additionally, public health will share contact tracing information regarding potential exposures to the appropriate regulatory body.

At the county level, our enforcement efforts are overseen by our business licensing agency, which has the ability to regulate all licensed businesses and to investigate unlicensed businesses. Our public health agency also has authority to monitor environmental health at businesses such as restaurants. In the event that the violation goes beyond the authority of the business licensing agency or if criminal activity is

involved, code enforcement and law enforcement, respectively, will be brought in to assist in the enforcement efforts.

In order to ensure that the county and political subdivisions are collaborating and enforcing consistently, are plan outlines a minimum percent of businesses that must be visited in a given time period. Additionally, we propose the following enforcement measures to ensure compliance:

First Offense:	36-hour closure
Second Offense:	Up to 14-day closure
Third Offense:	Potential long-term closure

Timeline and Data

The county is interested in implementing this plan as soon as possible based on modification or approval from the Task Force. It is our belief that we are successfully managing our local community spread and request that we be able to implement the element of this plan that allows for bar openings once we are below 8% positivity for our community. We would like to open bars at 35% (instead of 50%) once our positivity is below 10%.

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