



## City of Helotes

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### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – December 29, 2020

#### *Bexar County Order Rolls Back Occupancy Limits for Restaurants and Other Businesses*

Bexar County issued [Executive Order NW-19](#) on Monday, December 28. The Order remains in effect until fourteen (14) days following the termination of the statewide public health emergency as declared by Texas Governor Gregg Abbott. Visit the [Open Texas website](#) for updates regarding statewide restrictions.

The changes were triggered due to an increase in hospitalizations of over 15 percent for seven consecutive days. This statistic requires reductions per Governor Abbott's health orders. The percent of hospitalizations must stay under 15 percent for seven consecutive days before occupancy limits return to 75 percent occupancy.

Changes include:

- Restaurants and other businesses may operate up to 50 percent of the total listed indoor occupancy of the establishment. Tables and other seating areas outdoors shall be kept at least 6 feet apart and the establishment is required to implement a Health and Safety Policy prior to reopening.
- Sporting events, zoos, carnivals, libraries, and other activities are limited to 50 percent total occupancy and the implementation of Health and Safety protocols.
- Bars (that do not serve food) are required to close on-premises services.
- Hospitals shall postpone all elective surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life a patient.

The following protocols remain in place:

- **Every person in Bexar County shall wear a face covering** over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, whenever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household.
- **Household and social gatherings estimated to be in excess of 10 people are prohibited.** There are exceptions for certain businesses and services, including restaurants, retailers, business offices, gyms, religious services, childcare centers, and more.
- **Commercial entities located within Bexar County are required to have a Health and Safety Policy** in place and face coverings are still required for staff, customers, and visitors.

As infection rates continue to rise, residents in Helotes are urged to remain vigilant and continue practicing all recommended safety protocols, including wearing masks and social distancing. Any Bexar County resident struggling due to COVID-19 is encouraged to visit the [Bexar County Strong website](#). This program helps individuals with paying rent or utilities, finding employment opportunities, and more.