



OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TERREBONNE PARISH CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
P.O. Box 6097
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361-6097




GORDON E. DOVE
PARISH PRESIDENT

(985) 873-6401
FAX: (985) 873-6409
E-MAIL: gdove@tpcg.org

March 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Terrebonne Parish President Gordon E. Dove
From: Earl J. Eues, Jr., Director 
Terrebonne Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
RE: **Current State of Louisiana and the US CDC COVID Restrictions**

President Dove:

The State of Louisiana, through a proclamation from Governor John Bel Edwards, dated March 2, 2020 has extended the statewide public health emergency. He has also placed the State in Phase 3 in accordance with the White House Coronavirus Task Force guidelines for "Opening Up American Again".

Based on the Governor Edwards' most current proclamation, the following nonessential businesses shall remain closed to the public and members: places of amusement, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, splash pads, water parks, trampoline parks, arcades, fairs and festivals, children's play centers, indoor playgrounds, theme parks and concert and music halls. As per the State Fire Marshal, outdoor events, venues, fairs, festivals, carnivals, etc. shall be limited to controlled, fenced in settings only. General admission events where capacity and crowd control cannot be maintained will not be considered.

According to the La. State Fire Marshal, the Governor's proclamation does not yet address parades directly, therefore they do NOT have any guidelines for parades to be held SAFELY at this time.

In accordance with the Governor's proclamation and CDC guidance to avoid gatherings, closure of all waiting rooms, lobbies and other areas where members of the public may congregate is required.

The Governor's proclamation requires **every** individual in Louisiana **shall** wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial establishment or any other building or space open to the public, **whether indoor or outdoor**, unless exempted by certain parameters within the Governor's proclamation. Citations under the proclamation shall be written only to businesses or **organizations**, that fail to enforce the requirement to wear face coverings.

The CDC is currently recommending that large gatherings be avoided, **particularly those in which physical, social distancing cannot be maintained between people who live in different households. Longer lasting events, such as a parade, pose more risk than shorter events and events where people engage in behaviors such as interacting with others from outside their own household, singing, shouting, not maintaining physical distancing or not wearing mask consistently and correctly can increase the risk of Covid.**

There is great concern with State and Federal health officials regarding the spread of variant strains of the COVID virus. At the current time, the Region 3 Office of Public Health, which includes Terrebonne Parish, reports that the Region has been diagnosed with one case of the variant strains of the COVID virus. The variant strains of the COVID virus are highly transmittable to others and the introduction of a large amount of people from outside of Terrebonne Parish could cause a spike of the different variant strains in our Parish. As an example, the City of Houston has traced all variant strains within their community and continues to have a positivity rate above 10%.

We currently have 10.13% of the population in Terrebonne Parish completely vaccinated. If you add the number of validated cases of COVID in Terrebonne Parish (8.65% of the population), we only have approximately 18.78% of the population with either a vaccination or antibodies. This is far lower than is needed to say we have achieved “herd immunity” in Terrebonne Parish.

In the last couple of weeks, we have seen the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations decrease in our Parish. This is largely due to the absence of holiday festivities and other holidays limiting the number of large gatherings within our community. Residents practicing social distancing, increased handwashing and the majority of the population wearing a face covering has attributed to the lower case numbers and hospitalizations.

Based on the requirements of the Governor’s proclamation, the CDC recommendations, the possibility of spreading the variant strains of the virus and the low percent of the population that has been vaccinated or have antibodies, it is recommended that the Parish cancel any anticipated Mardi Gras parades.