



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

**David L. Fuentes**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Joe M. Flores**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

**OFFICE OF  
COUNTY JUDGE  
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, March 13, 2020

### **Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez advises residents to avoid large mass gatherings**

Based on new advisories coming from state health experts regarding COVID-19, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez is advising all residents to avoid public gatherings in which more than 1,000 people are expected.

His advisory came as a result of a Thursday afternoon conference call between Governor Greg Abbott, Texas health officials and county officials from across the state. During the call, state officials offered county officials three new guidelines related to mass gatherings:

- Organizers expecting more than 1,000 people should reconsider holding the event.
- The public and organizers should also consider indoor/outdoor crowd density.
- Event organizers should consider the essential nature of the gathering, including whether it is necessary or being held for leisure or entertainment.

"I take seriously any action that might have an economic impact on Hidalgo County," Judge Cortez said. "But even more serious is the health and well-being of Hidalgo County residents. Therefore, I am urging residents to follow the advice of state health experts and reconsider attending any mass gatherings that involve large crowds."

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