



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 1, 2020

Mayor Brian T. Muecke
City of Hedwig Village, Texas
955 Piney Point Road
Hedwig Village, TX 77024
mayor@hedwigtx.gov

Dear Mayor Muecke:

This letter responds to your request, under Government Code section 418.193, for guidance about whether a local health authority may order the closure of schools.

On July 28, 2020, the Office of the Attorney General publicly issued guidance on this issue in response to an inquiry from the mayor of Stephenville. You ask if that guidance applies generally to local health authorities across the State regardless of whether a local health order has been issued for a specific jurisdiction. In short, yes. Our guidance analyzed the current state of Texas law governing local health orders issued under chapter 81 of the Health and Safety Code; it was neither limited to a specific jurisdiction nor dependent on the existence of a local health order.

Please feel free to contact me if we can assist further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin Kinghorn".

Austin Kinghorn
Assistant Attorney General
General Counsel Division