



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

<b>Event Name</b>	20-0003 COVID-19 2020
<b>Date</b>	April 4, 2020
<b>Time</b>	0900
<b>Operational Period</b>	April 3 to April 4, 2020
<b>Report Number</b>	16

<b>Regions Affected</b>	
<b>Regions Affected</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
<b>DDCs Active</b>	ALL DDCs are activated

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** On April 3, Governor Abbott held a press conference to provide an update on Texas hospital capacity. The Governor was joined by Texas Department of Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, and Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Texas System John Zerwas, MD, and Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd. During the press conference, the Governor and Dr. Zerwas presented an overview of statewide hospital bed capacity, as well as a detailed analysis of bed availability by region. They also explained the state's preparations to bring additional facilities online to provide supplementary healthcare capacity if needed. Hospital bed availability in Texas has increased by nearly by over 140% since March 18th.

"The State of Texas is ahead of the curve to meet our hospital capacity needs in the coming weeks and months," said Governor Abbott. "Over the past several weeks we have taken action to expand bed availability to make sure that every Texan who needs a hospital bed will have access to one. The best thing Texans can do to help maintain hospital capacity is to stay at home unless they are engaged in essential services or activities. Staying home saves lives and helps our healthcare workers during these challenging times. I thank all the doctors, nurses, medical workers as they fight on the front lines against COVID-19."

On April 2, Governor Abbott suspended regulations to increase the amount of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers and first responders in Texas during the state's response to COVID-19. Under the Governor's direction, local medical directors for licensed EMS providers can permit individuals who are qualified, though not formally certified, to provide critical emergency response services for patients treated and transported by the EMS provider.

The Governor has also suspended certain skills testing requirements for EMS personnel in Texas and for out of state Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians seeking reciprocity in Texas so

that these individuals who are qualified, but currently unable to take the skills test, are able to provide essential EMS services. Additionally, Governor Abbott has also suspended regulations to allow first responder organizations to delay submission on their renewal application and completion requirements for licensure.

"Our EMS providers and first responders play a critical role in the front-line fight against COVID-19, and these waivers remove barriers that could otherwise prevent a much-needed availability of essential EMS workers and first responders in our communities," said Governor Abbott. "The State of Texas is committed to supporting the EMS and first responder workforce and maximizing the number of available response services for Texans."

On April 1, Governor Abbott issued a statement regarding the recently passed \$2 trillion federal stimulus package intended to relieve the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on unemployed workers and the state's hardest-hit businesses.

"We appreciate the speedy passage of this stimulus package designed to provide much-needed relief for hardworking Texas families who have been economically impacted by COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "While the state of Texas continues to take action to protect public health, we are also committed to working with our federal partners to ensure Texans have the financial relief they need during this time."

Workers are the main beneficiaries of the stimulus dollars, whether their situation consists of reduced hours, furlough, or termination related to COVID-19. Self-employed Texans whose businesses have failed under the stress of the global pandemic may also be eligible as well.

A newly created Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) fund is the bill's primary vehicle, empowering states to extend federally-funded unemployment benefits by an additional 13 weeks (past the usual 26 weeks). The fund also boost weekly benefits for those laid off, terminated or furloughed due to COVID-19 by \$600 per week.

The measures also reduces paperwork and speeds the claims process by empowering employers to file one mass claim on behalf of all their employees laid off because of COVID-19. It also eliminates any chargeback to Texas employers for claims filed due to COVID-19.

Much like disaster unemployment assistance seen in past weather-related disasters, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) may be available for displaced workers not normally eligible for regular or extended benefits. Workers whose hours have been reduced due to the COVID-19 slowdown may qualify for Work Share, a federal Short-Term Compensation program.

Employees whose work has been impacted by COVID-19, whether by a reduction in hours or a loss of their job, are encouraged apply for unemployment benefits online or call 1-800-939-6631. Employers can also utilize [online](#) filing for mass claims they file on behalf of employee groups laid off due to COVID-19.

On April 1, Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) have taken initial action to provide tenant-based rental assistance for Texans experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The Governor has waived statutes relating to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Investments Partnership program which would allow Texas greater flexibility to use program funds to help

certain Texans pay their rent. In addition, TDHCA has sent a letter to HUD requesting federal waivers to allow greater flexibility to Texas to reprogram these funds for that purpose. If these waivers are granted, Texas will reprogram these funds to provide financial housing assistance to certain Texans enduring economic hardships related to COVID-19.

"The State of Texas is committed to supporting Texans who are enduring significant economic hardship due to the spread of COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "Suspending these state statutes is a crucial first step to help many Texans receive the financial assistance they need to pay their rent, and I urge HUD to grant the federal waiver requests."

On March 31, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols for the entire state of Texas. The protocols direct all Texans to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. The Governor's Executive Order renews and amends his previous order enforcing federal social distancing guidelines for COVID-19, including closing schools and instructing Texans to avoid eating or drinking at bars and restaurants. The protocols allow exceptions for essential activities and services based on the Department of Homeland Security's guidelines on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. Examples of these essential services include healthcare, grocery stores, banking and financial services, utilities, child care for essential service employees, and government services.

This Executive Order follows the decision by President Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance social distancing guidelines and extend the deadline for these guidelines to April 30th.

Governor Abbott was joined for the announcement by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd, and Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner Mike Morath.

"Social distancing is our best tool in the fight against COVID-19, and the actions we have taken thus far have proven to be effective in limiting the spread of this virus," said Governor Abbott. "Now it is time to redouble our efforts to reduce further exposure as much as possible and flatten the curve. As with all the actions the state is taking, the Essential Services and Activities Protocols is informed by the expertise and guidance of the CDC as well as state and local health officials. I urge my fellow Texans to heed these heightened social distancing directives to protect their health and the health of those around them. By following these guidelines, we will limit the spread of COVID-19 and overcome this challenge together."

The Executive Order renews and expands the Governor's previous directive to minimize social gatherings and minimize contact with people who are not in the same household. It also renews the Governor's directive to avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, and visiting gyms or massage establishments, and it expands the order to include tattoo studios, piercing studios, and cosmetology salons.

In accordance with federal guidelines, people are still prohibited from visiting nursing home, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance. Additionally, schools will remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance through May 4, 2020.

This Executive Order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. The order also includes exemption for religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.

Governor Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton issued joint guidance regarding the effect of Executive Order GA 14 on religious services conducted in congregations and houses of worship.

“All Texans must work together to stop the spread of COVID-19, and houses of worship face a particular challenge as we work to combat this pandemic,” said Attorney General Paxton. “This guidance provides clear direction for houses of worship to protect the health and safety of Texans as they continue to hold religious services, exercise their religious liberty, and serve their faith communities.”

The Executive Order GA 14 defines essential services to include “religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.” Orders given by state or local governments prohibiting people from providing or obtaining certain services must ensure that the orders do not violate the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, Article I of the Texas Constitution, and the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which protect the rights of Texans to freely exercise their religion.

TDEM will maintain an online list of essential services specified in the Governor's Executive Order at [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/). Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of TDEM.

These orders will be effective on a statewide basis starting at 12:01 AM on April 2, 2020 and will end on April 30, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC. [View the Governor's Executive Order.](#)

On March 31, Governor Abbott announced the Comfort Food Care Package (CFCP) program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families in communities across Texas as the state responds to COVID-19. As part of the program, participating restaurants offer CFCPs for patrons to purchase on behalf of families and youth in need. Each care package contains enough food to feed a family of 5 to 6 and will be delivered to recipients' homes. The program is a partnership between the Governor's Public Safety Office, the Texas network of Family and Youth Success Programs (formerly called Services to At-Risk Youth), Favor Delivery, and the Texas Restaurant Association.

"Thank you to the generous Texans and restaurants across the state for stepping up to provide meals to families in need," said Governor Abbott. "The Comfort Food Care Package program will provide at-risk youth and families with an additional food source, while giving Texans another way to support local restaurants and their fellow Texans experiencing hardships due to COVID-19."

"This innovative new program is a win for communities and restaurants across Texas," said Emily Williams Knight, Ed.D., President and CEO of the Texas Restaurant Association. "By harnessing the generosity of Texans, customers can now support their communities and their favorite restaurants at the same time. I'm proud we could partner with Governor Abbott and Favor to launch this program so quickly. While we can't predict when the impact of this crisis will end, we can find comfort in knowing that we have a new way to ensure everyone receives a meal and by doing that, we will help to keep local restaurants running."

The Comfort Food Care Package program utilizes the following steps:

1. Participating restaurants list CFCPs on their online ordering system for customers to purchase on behalf of at-risk families and youth in the community.
2. Customers add CFCPs to their orders and purchase.
3. Family and Youth Success Programs identify families and shelters who have the most need and work with participating restaurants and Favor to get the meals delivered.

Families interested in utilizing the CFCP program should contact their local Family and Youth Success Program for more information. Restaurants interested in participating in the program can sign up on the [Texas Restaurant Association website](#).

On March 30, Governor Abbott has waived certain statutory provisions to ensure public safety employees who contract COVID-19 during the course of their employment will be reimbursed for reasonable medical expenses related to their treatment of COVID-19. Because the nature of their duties has caused them to increase their risk of contracting COVID-19, the Governor has waived these statutory provisions so that public safety employees who contract COVID-19 are not also financially penalized.

"Texas' public safety employees are vital to our COVID-19 response," said Governor Abbott. "These brave men and women are on the front lines and risking potential exposure to keep our communities safe. By waiving these regulations, Texas will ensure that those who may contract COVID-19 will have the support they need to pay for medical expenses."

On March 30, Governor Abbott announced that the [Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services \(CMS\)](#) ([www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)) has approved the Section 1135 Medicaid Waiver submitted by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) on March 26, 2020. This approval grants Texas flexibility in administering Medicaid while the state continues to respond to COVID-19.

"I thank CMS for quickly granting this waiver so that the Lone Star State can continue to meet the routine needs of Texans on Medicaid," said Governor Abbott. "These flexibilities ensure that care capacity is expanded for Texans who utilize Medicaid services, even as the state continues to respond to COVID-19."

Flexibilities granted under this waiver include:

Extension of prior authorizations: For enrollees who have an existing prior authorization, CMS approves the state extending a prior authorization approved on or after March 1.

Suspension of Level I and Level II PASRR assessments: All new nursing facility admissions may

be treated as an exempted hospital discharge for 30 days. After 30 days, new admissions with a mental illness or intellectual disability should be reviewed as soon as resources are available.

Fair hearing and appeals: CMS approves the extension of fair hearings up to 120 days (from 90 days) and Texas may choose to allow up to 90 days for an enrollee to file an appeal.

Provider enrollment:

Texas may reimburse an out-of-state provider if: the service is provided out-of-state, the provider has an NPI on the claim, and the provider is enrolled in Medicare or another state's Medicaid program.

Texas may provisionally/temporarily enroll an out-of-state provider not enrolled in Medicare or another state's Medicaid program and waive the application fee, finger print criminal background check, site visit, and in-state license requirement.

Texas must collect information necessary to process claims, screen for state licensure in other states and screen against the OIG exclusion list. Texas must not issue temporary enrollments after the end of the public health emergency, not allow retroactive effective dates earlier than March 1, and Texas must cease payments to temporarily enrolled providers within 6 months of the end of the public health emergency (unless the provider competes a Texas Medicaid enrollment).

Texas is granted a waiver to temporarily cease provider revalidation.

CMS grants the above flexibilities for CHIP.

Public notice: CMS grants Texas a waiver of public notice requirements

HHSC is continuing to work with CMS on additional flexibility requests that are associated with those approved Monday March 30.

On March 29, The Vice President of the United States sent a letter to all Hospital Administrators; At the President's direction, we are requesting that all hospitals report the following information to HHS:

On behalf of President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. I want to extend my gratitude for your tireless efforts to provide healthcare to Americans during this unprecedented pandemic. Your hospital is on the front lines of America's response each day providing lifesaving treatment for patients. Your efforts are indispensable, and the Trump Administration values them deeply.

The Coronavirus Task Force continues to take aggressive and proactive steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic as the health and safety of the American people remain a top priority. FEMA is coordinating the full Federal response along with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure State, local tribal, and territorial governments receive the supplies and support they need, including medical supplies. This is truly a whole-of-government response that is locally executed, State managed, and federally supported.

As you know, partnership is essential as we work together to address the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, we are requesting your assistance with reporting data that is critical for epidemiological surveillance and public health decision making. We understand that you may already be reporting to your State, but the data is needed at the federal level to support FEMA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their efforts to support states and localities in addressing and responding to the virus.

## **1. COVID-19 Test Result Reporting**

a. We are requesting that all hospitals report data on COVID-19 testing performed in your Academic/University/Hospital 'in-house' laboratories. ***If all of your COVID-19 testing is sent out to private labs and performed by 011e of the commercial laboratories 011 the list below, you do not need to report using this spreadsheet.***

i.. *Commercial laboratories:* LabCorp, BioReference Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, and ARUP Laboratories.

b. ***Reporting Instructions:*** We request that all data for COVID-19 testing completed at "in-house" laboratories or a laboratory not listed above be **reported** using the attached spreadsheet.

i. Due date/time: The spreadsheet is due EVERY day at 5 PM ET.

ii. Data to report: The data elements are outlined in the spreadsheet [emailed separately], but should include all test results that were completed during the previous day with a midnight cutoff.

iii. Where to submit: Submit the spreadsheet via email to fema-hhs-coviddiagnostics-tf@fema.dhs.gov.

iv. Data elements to report: Included in the attached spreadsheet with definitions.

c. For questions about reporting, please contact fema-hhs-covid-diagnosticstf@fema.dhs.gov.

## **2. National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Module**

a. To monitor the rapid emergence of COVID-19 and the impact on the healthcare system, all hospitals should report data each day to the National Healthcare Safety network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module, which has been made available for hospitals to use beginning March 27, 2020. All hospitals that currently use NHS have received an email from the CDC with additional details about how to report to the new module. Although most hospitals already regularly submit data to NHSN on healthcare-associated infections for purposes of CMS reporting, the data we are now asking you to report is necessary in monitoring the spread of severe COVID-19 illness and death as well as the impact to hospitals. Additional details can be found in the attached documents and at the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/covid-19/index.html>.

b. For questions on this module, please contact HS @cdc.gov and put "COVID-19 Module" in the subject line.

The data will help us better understand disease patterns and develop policies for prevention and control of health problems related to COVID-19. All data provided by hospitals will be maintained in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

We appreciate our strong partnership with you and we are grateful for your cooperation with this request to obtain the data needed to support a robust State and Federal response to COVID-19.

On March 29, the Governor of the State of Texas issued two executive orders expanding the travel restrictions concerning travel from Louisiana. The First order (GA-12) mandates a 14 day quarantine for road travelers traveling from any location in Louisiana. This mandated quarantine does not apply to commercial activity, military service, emergency response, health response or critical infrastructure functions. The second executive order (GA-13) prohibits the release of individuals in custody for or with a history of offenses involving physical violence or threat of

physical violence. The Governor also issued a proclamation regarding his prior Executive Order mandating a self-quarantine for individuals arriving from New York Tri-State Area and New Orleans, Louisiana. The Executive Order now includes air travelers arriving from California, Louisiana, Washington, Atlanta, Georgia, Chicago, Illinois, Detroit Michigan, and Miami, Florida.

On March 29, Governor Abbott held a press conference at the State Capitol where he provided new information on the state's health care capacity and issued additional Executive Orders. The Governor announced that hospital beds available for COVID-19 patients have doubled over the past week. He also detailed the joint effort between the state, the Texas Military Department (TMD), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify and equip additional locations to serve as health care facilities in the event that hospital capacity is exhausted. The first of these sites will be the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.

On March 29, the President of the United States Donald Trump extends federal social distancing guidance for 30 days as scientists warn virus continues to spread.

On March 28, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in Texas. Under these waivers, an APRN with a license that has been inactive for more than two years, but less than four years, will not have to pay a reactivation fee, complete continuing education credits, or complete the current practice requirements. For APRNs with a license that has been inactive for more than four years, the reactivation fee and continuing education requirements will be waived.

"Our frontline healthcare workers play a crucial role in Texas' response to COVID-19, and we are working to reduce barriers for former nurses who are ready and willing to serve in our communities," said Governor Abbott. "By expediting the process for APRNs to reactivate their license, Texas is allowing more healthcare professionals to reenter the workforce and assist in our effort to combat COVID-19."

On March 28, Governor Abbott waived certain licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees. With these waivers, the Governor is temporarily extending expiration dates for licenses and temporarily suspending continuing education requirements for pharmacists.

"As our state responds to COVID-19, it is important that Texans continue to have access to the services they depend on to meet their daily needs," said Governor Abbott. "With these waivers, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can continue to meet the needs of their fellow Texans without potential delays caused by an expired license."

On March 27, as part of the state's ongoing response to COVID-19, Governor Abbott announced the deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 176th Engineer Brigade will operate ten general support units located throughout the state.

"Whether it's overseas combat, major storms, or deadly viruses, the Texas National Guard is always quick to defend and serve their fellow Texans," said Governor Abbott. "Texans can be grateful that these troops are now standing their post alongside healthcare professionals and first responders on the front lines of this crisis."



The Governor has ordered an initial focus on two critical missions that will directly benefit from Texas National Guard's unparalleled logistics capabilities, medical expertise, communications support, infrastructure maintenance, and transportation assets: assisting drive through testing sites and bolstering the state's healthcare infrastructure.

Over the past week, Guard members have practiced erecting and running drive through testing site locations alongside medical staff to ensure a well-coordinated process that allows Texans to access COVID-19 screenings in a safe, efficient way that also limits contact with potentially infected members of the public.

The Guard is also rolling out support for the state's healthcare infrastructure with medical providers, equipment, and supplies needed to provide access to care. As the response advances, Guardsmen will continue working with partners at the local, state, and national levels to identify and develop additional locations that can be converted to healthcare facilities.

"We are citizen soldiers and we find our highest calling in serving our fellow citizens, no matter where duty calls us," said Major General Tracy R. Norris, the adjutant general of Texas and commander of the Texas National Guard. "This will be no easy task but we have faced difficult times before. With the commitment of our soldiers and support of the community we will show the world that we are Texas strong and Texas proud, and together we will overcome this challenge."

Governor Abbott also stressed that these taskings will not diminish the Guard's ability to meet operational commitments including the Texas border mission and overseas deployments.

To ensure responding Guard members are healthy, trained medical staff will be attached to each unit and provide screenings before each Guard member is approved for the mission. Any Guard member showing signs of illness will receive treatment and the needed resources to recover while following all requirements outlined by the CDC. This measure will keep responding units healthy and reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

On March 27, Governor Abbott waived certain Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) regulations to preserve and extend child care capacity for front line workers. These waivers will allow TWC the flexibility to respond to child care needs, and are part of the Governor's work through the Supply Chain Strike Force to strengthen child care infrastructure for critical workers during the COVID-19 response. These waivers ensure that families using child care subsidized through TWC will not lose their slots during this interim period while the state battles COVID-19, and it secures payment to child care providers throughout this time.

"Through these waivers, TWC will be able to better respond to the child care needs of our front line workers in Texas," said Governor Abbott. "We remain committed to working with TWC and other state entities to ensure Texans serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 response have the support they need."

Children within TWC's child care services program will be able to accrue absences due to COVID-19 without impacting ongoing eligibility or provider reimbursements. TWC will also be able to waive parent share of cost requirements and direct local workforce development boards to make supplemental emergency payments to child care programs to offset payments lost due to COVID-19. Additionally, these waivers will allow TWC to temporarily broaden the definition of "protective services" to include children of workers on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19.

On March 26, Governor Abbott announced his request for access to interest-free federal loans (known as Title XII funds) to pay unemployment claims and the accelerated release of funds from the Texas account of the federal Unemployment Trust Fund. Title XII is a federal process that allows states to receive advances (loans) from the federal government to continue to cover Unemployment Benefit payments without disruption.

In a request letter to Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia, Governor Abbott authorized the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to officially request access to these additional funds.

“As job loss and other economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic grow, we are committed to drawing upon all available resources to help Texas hardest hit by the crisis,” said Governor Abbott. “With claims on the rise, our current balance of unemployment funds is projected to run out by the end of next month, so we must accelerate the delivery of necessary dollars.”

Department of Labor approval would allow Texas to apply for federal loans that would be interest-free through the end of the current calendar year. In the past, TWC has taken such loans then issued bonds to pay them off. In every case, the agency has never missed making a payment to an eligible claimant.

On March 26, Governor Abbott, ordered the following on a statewide basis effective at noon on March 28, 2020:

Every person who enters the State of Texas as the final destination through an airport, from a point of origin or point of last departure in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, or the City of New Orleans, or in any other state or city as may be proclaimed hereafter, shall be subject to mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Texas or the duration of the person’s presence in Texas, whichever is shorter. This order to self-quarantine shall not apply to people traveling in connection with military service, emergency response, health response, or critical-infrastructure functions, as may be determined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management. Each person covered under this order to self-quarantine shall be responsible for all associated costs, including transportation, lodging, food, and medical care.

A covered person shall use a form prescribed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to designate a quarantine location in Texas, such as a residence or a hotel, and provide a full name, date of birth, home address, telephone number, and driver license or passport information. DPS Troopers, or other approved peace officers, shall collect a completed form from each covered person immediately upon disembarking and verify it against the person’s driver license or passport. Providing false information on this form is a criminal offense under Section 37.10 of the Texas Penal Code. Questions about this form should be directed to DPS at (800) 525-5555.

A covered person shall proceed directly from the airport to the designated quarantine location entered on the DPS form. Any covered person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall be escorted to the designated quarantine location by a DPS Trooper. The covered person shall remain in the designated quarantine location for a period of 14 days or the duration of the person’s presence in Texas, whichever is shorter, leaving only to seek medical care or to depart from Texas. During that period, a covered person shall not allow visitors into or out of the designated quarantine location, other than a health department employee, physician, or healthcare provider, and shall not visit any public spaces.

DPS Special Agents will conduct unannounced visits to designated quarantine locations to verify compliance by confirming the physical presence of covered persons. Any failure to comply with this order to self-quarantine shall be a criminal offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both.

This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

On March 26, the Texas Attorney General filed a lawsuit to stop Auctions Unlimited LLC from price gouging Texans for necessary health related supplies including face masks, N95 particulate respirators, hand soap, all-purpose cleaner and disinfectant wipes.

On March 25, Governor Abbott released a statement thanking President Trump for issuing a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4485) for the State of Texas. This announcement comes after the Governor requested the declaration—citing the need for additional federal assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health, and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of COVID-19. “Texas is aggressively pursuing and implementing all necessary strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19, and I thank President Trump for his swift action to issue a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Texas,” said Governor Abbott. “The President’s declaration opens up new sources of funding for individual and public assistance that will help Texas respond to this public health emergency and protect public health and safety.”

Governor Abbott has temporarily waived certain hospital licensing rules and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has adopted an emergency rule to meet Texas’ need for additional hospital capacity while the state responds to COVID-19. These actions allow for certain facilities that have pending licenses or facilities that have been closed for no more than 36 months to come online under existing hospital building licenses. These facilities will be administered and operated by hospitals with existing licenses. The waivers also remove certain mileage restrictions which will allow hospitals to operate additional facilities that are more than 30 miles away from the main licensed hospital.

Governor Abbott has waived certain regulations from the Texas Board of Nursing regarding licensing renewal and subsequent fees for nurses in Texas. The Governor's waiver authorizes a six-month grace period for nurses with expired licenses. This grace period will allow nurses who are otherwise in good standing to continue practicing and will give them additional time to renew their license without added fees and penalties.

On March 24, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to issue guidance allowing restaurants to sell bulk retail products from restaurant supply chain distributors directly to consumers provided that such foods are in their original condition, packaging, or presented as received by the restaurant. Under this guidance, restaurants will be able to sell items like packaged meat, fruit and vegetables, and dry goods directly to the public to prepare and consume at home. This guidance will allow distributors and restaurants to provide Texans another source of food outside of grocery stores and prepared food from restaurants. These bulk food items would be available for purchase through restaurants offering drive-thru, delivery, pick-up, and curbside service.

On March 23, Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Trump requesting a presidential declaration of a major disaster in Texas based on the continued impact of COVID-19. This action follows on the heels of a series of proactive measures, including declaring a state of disaster for all 254 Texas counties on March 13, 2020. Filed in accordance with the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the request is based in part on Governor Abbott's conclusion that the ongoing COVID-19 incident is of such severity and magnitude that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives, to protect property, public health, and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a larger disaster.

In his letter, the Governor specifically requested Individual Assistance Crisis Counseling and Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) including Direct Federal Assistance for all 254 counties in Texas, noting that, as of March 23rd, Texas has 352 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with eight related deaths.

Governor Abbott's letter also detailed the state's efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including executing the state's emergency management plan and issuing multiple executive orders, in accordance with guidelines from President Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These include:

- mandatory avoidance of social gatherings of more than 10 people;
- mandatory avoidance of dine-in eating and drinking at bars or restaurants, and of gyms or massage establishments;
- prohibition on non-critical visits to nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities; and
- temporary closure of in-person school operations.

The Governor has also issued multiple waivers of state law to remove barriers limiting the response to this pandemic and activated the Texas National Guard to be prepared to assist with response efforts for COVID-19. To date, more than 466 Texas jurisdictions have submitted local disaster declarations, a number that is expected to rise. The requested federal aid would be used to overcome the current shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), needed medical equipment and testing supplies as well as looming shortages of hospital beds, medical equipment, and a healthy and adequate cadre of medical personnel.

The letter also designated Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer, tasked with continuing his coordination with FEMA on all matters related to COVID-19.

On March 22, the governor signed an Executive Order for hospitals to increase unused bed capacity without submitting an application or associated fees. This precautionary measure will help ensure Texas hospitals across the state have adequate care capacity for COVID-19 patients. The order allows for increased occupancy of hospital rooms to treat more than one patient in a room. The order also postpones all surgeries that are of non-life saving category or those who would use up PPE. The order also creates a Supply Chain Strike Force to ensure all health care facilities have the supplies and resources they need. The task force will secure the needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and food for medical personnel, first responders and those who contract COVID-19. This executive order takes effect immediately and remains in effect until April 21.

March 20, The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) released an announcement that warns consumers about unauthorized fraudulent coronavirus tests. The agency is beginning to see unauthorized fraudulent test kits that are being marketed to test for COVID-19 in the home. The FDA has not authorized any test that is available to purchase for testing at home for COVID-19. The FDA will take appropriate action to protect consumers from bad actors who take advantage of a crisis to deceive the public by marketing tests that pose risks to patient health. Enforcement is being stepped up at ports of entry, including International Mail Facilities, to ensure these fraudulent products that originate outside the country do not enter through our borders. Reports may be sent via email to: [FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov).

On March 19, Governor Abbot issued four Executive Orders to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Texas.

Order No. 1 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Order No. 2 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4 - In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

This, executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 PM on April 3, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me or by a succeeding governor.

Governor Abbott also announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has included the entire state of Texas in its Economic Injury Disaster Declaration and granted access to its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which will provide long-term, low interest loans to qualifying businesses across the state. The Governor's request was driven by COVID-19-related economic losses across Texas related to major event cancellations, loss of walk-in customers, depletion of stock from suppliers, and client cancellations. Governor Abbott also

commented on the SBA's rapid turnaround to a request he made by letter just three days ago. Texas small businesses who believe they may be eligible for an SBA EIDL should visit [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster) where they can directly apply for assistance. The online application is the fastest method to receive a decision about loan eligibility.

The Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in Texas.

On March 18, Governor Abbott issued a waiver that will allow restaurants to deliver alcoholic beverages with food purchases to patrons, including beer, wine, and mixed drinks. The Governor also directed the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) to waive certain provisions to allow manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of alcoholic beverages to repurchase or sell back unopened product.

These waivers are in response to the financial hardship caused by COVID-19 that has disproportionately affected the hospitality industry.

"The State of Texas is committed to supporting retailers, restaurants, and their employees," said Governor Abbott. "These waivers will allow restaurants to provide enhanced delivery options to consumers during this temporary period of social distancing."

Under this waiver, effective immediately, restaurants with a mixed beverage permit may sell beer, wine, or mixed drinks for delivery as long as they are accompanied by food purchased from the restaurant.

The buy-back waiver allows alcohol distributors and manufacturers to repurchase excess inventory from restaurants, bars, and clubs affected by event cancellations due to COVID-19.

On March 18, Governor Abbott, announced that Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Driver License Offices across the state are closing immediately. This temporary closure will not apply to those seeking an initial Commercial Driver License (CDL). DPS offices that provide CDL testing will remain open solely for the purpose of providing initial CDLs. Visits will be by appointment only, and can be scheduled by emailing [cldappointments@dps.texas.gov](mailto:cldappointments@dps.texas.gov). This exception will allow commercial drivers to continue to ship goods across the state of Texas.

Governor Abbott announced that he has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to temporarily waive expiration dates for Driver Licenses, Commercial Driver Licenses, and other identification forms. This action falls within the Governor's State of Disaster Declaration and is part of the ongoing effort to reduce to spread of COVID-19.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took steps to help prevent disruptions in the food supply-chain by issuing a temporary policy for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) supplier verification onsite audit requirements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

The virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces, according to a new study from National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Governor Abbott announced that he is activating the Texas National Guard in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak in the state.

Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 local elections. This means local governments now have the ability to postpone their May 2, 2020 elections until November 3, 2020.

Governor Abbott has announced that Texas is waiving certain rules relating to parking placards for persons with disabilities. The aim of waiving this requirement is to help reduce preventable in-person contact and slow the spread of COVID-19. This will allow Texans to avoid penalties for failure to renew a parking placard, but does not waive the requirement to have a placard in order to park in an accessible parking spot.

Governor Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced a collaboration with local education agencies (LEA) on the Texas Students MealFinder Map which will allow Texas parents to locate LEA facilities serving meals in their communities. This searchable online map will officially launch on Friday, March 20, and will include the address of each facility, as well as days and times meals will be served. The map will be available on the TEA website.

Childcare Licensing office in HHSC is working with Caesar Lopez, associate General Counsel for the Texas Hospital Association. A waiver has been submitted to Governor Abbott's office to ease regulations during the COVID-19 incident. For up to 20 days, a day care can be operated without a child care license without penalty. They strongly encourage active and progressive safety and security for the center and the children.

On March 21, the US and Canada will temporarily restrict all non-essential travel across the US-Canada land border. The measure will be in place for 30 days, at which point it will be reviewed by both parties.

Governor Abbott announced that he is temporarily suspending certain regulations to ensure that Texans will have continued access to their pharmacists as the state responds to COVID-19. The Governor's actions will allow pharmacists to conduct telephonic consultations, and remove regulatory barriers so that pharmacies can operate at full strength.

Governor Abbott recognized the difference in the number of positive COVID-19 tests reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Johns Hopkins University data dashboard, saying the Johns Hopkins provides "additional cases that may not yet be confirmed" and may include cases of people who have been brought into the state from cruise ships. Medical groups have offered up the masks and medical gear, including the Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Texas Medical Association. Dr. Luis Rios, president of the Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons, delivered 1,000 masks, 1,000 gloves and hundreds of gowns, the Governor said.

Governor Abbott held a press conference to provide an update on incoming supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other resources to aid Texas' response to COVID-19. The Governor announced that the newly established Supply Chain Strike Force has already secured more than \$83 million of purchase orders for essential supplies. Additionally, the Governor announced that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will begin receiving 100,000 masks per day by the end of this week and the Supply Chain Strike Force will begin

receiving an additional 100,000 masks per day by the end of next week—meaning the State of Texas will soon be receiving more than one million masks per week.

The Governor also announced the launch of an online portal run by the Supply Chain Strike Force to streamline the process and validation of leads for more supplies. The portal, accessible through [www.texas.gov](http://www.texas.gov), will serve as an intake process for those wanting to provide valid leads on PPE and donations. The portal also serves as a portal for those wanting to donate supplies, services, or your time—including medical professionals and nurses looking to volunteer.

The Governor also issued an Executive Order to better track both hospital bed capacity and COVID-19 test results across the state. The Executive Order requires all hospitals, excluding psychiatric hospitals, to submit daily reports on hospital bed capacity to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) who will then share this information with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The order also requires every public or private entity utilizing FDA-approved COVID-19 tests to submit daily reports of all results to the local health department and DSHS who will then share this information with the CDC.

On March 17, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations and directed that the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) issue an emergency rule, all relating to telemedicine care for patients with state-regulated insurance plans to help doctors across Texas continue to treat their patients while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The suspensions and emergency rule will work together to allow telemedicine visits for patients with state-regulated plans to be paid the same as in-office visits for insurance purposes. These actions build upon waivers the Governor issued last week of portions in the Occupations Code to expand provider flexibility in providing medical services over the phone.

On March 14, Governor Abbott, directed the Texas Medical Board (TMB) and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBN) to fast-track the temporary licensing of out-of-state physicians, physician assistants, certain retired physicians, nurses, and other license types to assist in Texas' response to COVID-19.

The Governor suspended State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAR) testing for the state. Governor Abbott has suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. This temporary suspension will leave important open-meeting protections in place. Governor Abbott will allow virtual and telephonic open meetings to maintain government transparency.

The President's unprecedented Nationwide Emergency Declaration, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services' (HHS) declaration of a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 establish that exigent and emergency circumstances currently exist. For the duration of the Public Health Emergency, which began on January 27 as determined by HHS, local governments, nonprofits, and other non-state entities may proceed with new and existing noncompetitively procured contracts in order to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threats created by emergency situations for 1) Emergency protective measures under FEMA's Public Assistance Program and 2) Use of FEMA non-disaster grant funds by non-state recipients and sub-recipients to respond to or address COVID-19.

On March 13, the President of the United States Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 global pandemic is a national emergency.



On March 13, the Governor of the State of Texas Abbott issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat in the state and declared a state of disaster for all 254 counties in Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Sid Miller announced TDA has been granted flexibility from the federal school meal program to allow Texas schools to continue to provide meals to students even if temporarily closed.

The CDC and Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) coronavirus webpages are reliable sources of information. DSHS is monitoring the Texas situation seven days a week. They are working closely with emergency response agencies, local health departments and the CDC. The most up-to-date information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>). The Coronavirus Task Force continues holding frequent national briefings. DSHS COVID-19 Call Center 1-877-570-9779 Hours 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

### Texas People Tested

<b>Total</b>	<b>55,764</b>
<b>Public Labs</b>	4,875
<b>Private Labs</b>	50,889*

\*Number does not include the total tested by all private labs.

### Texas COVID-19 Cases (1)

<b>Total Statewide Cases</b>	<b>5,330</b>
<b>Texas Counties</b>	145
<b>Deaths</b>	90

<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Anderson County	1	Kaufman County	9
Angelina County	8	Kendall County	8
Atascosa County	2	Kerr County	2
Austin County	4	Kleberg County	1
Bastrop County	10	Lamar County	3
Bell County	51	Lamb County	1
Bexar County	254	Lampasas County	1
Blanco County	1	Lavaca County	1
Bowie County	10	Lee County	2
Brazoria County	123	Leon County	2
Brazos County	68	Liberty County	5
Brown County	4	Limestone County	3
Burleson County	1	Live Oak County	3
Burnet County	4	Llano County	3

<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>County of Residence</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Caldwell County	2	Lubbock County	117
Calhoun County	8	Lynn County	3
Cameron County	55	Martin County	1
Camp County	1	Matagorda County	32
Cass County	4	Maverick County	4
Castro County	9	McLennan County	49
Chambers County	11	Medina County	3
Cherokee County	5	Midland County	19
Clay County	1	Milam County	2
Collin County	227	Montague County	1
Colorado County	4	Montgomery County	110
Comal County	18	Moore County	6
Comanche County	1	Morris County	1
Coryell County	2	Nacogdoches County	12
Crane County	2	Navarro County	5
Dallas County	831	Newton County	1
Dawson County	3	Nueces County	41
De Witt County	6	Oldham County	2
Deaf Smith County	3	Orange County	7
Denton County	254	Palo Pinto County	1
Donley County	5	Panola County	4
Eastland County	3	Parker County	5
Ector County	15	Polk County	7
El Paso County	78	Potter County	21
Ellis County	27	Randall County	21
Erath County	3	Robertson County	2
Falls County	1	Rockwall County	10
Fannin County	2	Rusk County	7
Fayette County	10	San Augustine County	4
Fort Bend County	221	San Jacinto County	1
Franklin County	1	San Patricio County	3
Gaines County	1	Shelby County	10
Galveston County	130	Smith County	53
Gillespie County	1	Starr County	5
Goliad County	1	Swisher County	1
Gonzales County	1	Tarrant County	325
Gray County	1	Taylor County	18
Grayson County	12	Terry County	4
Gregg County	8	Titus County	1

County of Residence	Number of Cases	County of Residence	Number of Cases
Grimes County	3	Tom Green County	10
Guadalupe County	23	Travis County	351
Hale County	6	Upshur County	3
Hardin County	15	Uvalde County	4
Harris County	955	Val Verde County	5
Harrison County	5	Van Zandt County	3
Hays County	45	Victoria County	27
Henderson County	1	Walker County	5
Hidalgo County	79	Waller County	7
Hill County	3	Washington County	17
Hockley County	7	Webb County	65
Hood County	8	Wharton County	9
Hopkins County	3	Wichita County	44
Hunt County	8	Willacy County	5
Jackson County	3	Williamson County	63
Jasper County	2	Wilson County	6
Jefferson County	40	Wise County	3
Jim Wells County	1	Wood County	1
Johnson County	18	Young County	3
Karnes County	2		

*To see county totals, scroll table below.*

(1) DSHS will update the state case count each day by 12:00 Noon Central Time, the data displayed is current as of 8:00 PM the prior day.

**OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.
5. Expand and maximize bed capacity.
6. Develop alternative care sites to support local governments and the health care systems.
7. Acquire supplies/equipment to support health care and testing.
8. Protect vulnerable populations.
9. Ensure visibility on progression of the disease.
10. Support local governments.
11. Set communications messaging for the event based of science and the circumstances.

**Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)**

**DDC 4 – Hurst** (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise Counties)

**Tarrant County:**

**City of Fort Worth:** The Fort Worth Fire Department (FD) has opened a COVID-19 testing center available to front line health care workers including physicians, nurses, medical assistants, and other health professionals. Call the Infections Disease Coordinator at the Fort Worth Joint Emergency Operations Center at (817) 714-9709 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

**DDC 6 – Tyler** (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

211Texas.org handled 608 calls within the District on Wednesday April 1. 211 launched a statewide web-chat Wednesday morning at [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org). Help Seekers can go to the website and select the “Chat Now” box at the top of the page.

**Anderson County:**

**City of Palestine:** On April 6 at 6:00 PM there will be a televised Town Hall meeting at the Municipal Courtroom with the County COVID-19 Task Force.

**Gregg County:** The County Tax Office is offering a three-month extension on all existing payment agreements involving delinquent taxes.

**City of Kilgore:** Kilgore Emergency Management and Texas Military Department personnel performed a site survey of a vacant medical facility as part of a feasibility study to re-open the facility.

**City of Longview:** City-operated health clinic is closed. Employees have been encouraged to use Teledoc for telemedicine. City of Longview is encouraging their citizens to contact the CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System hotline at 1-800-458-4559 through the City of Longview / Gregg County COVID-19 hotline at (903) 237-1215. Fewer riders requiring alteration/reduction of Bus Transportation routes as needed.

**Smith County:**

**City of Tyler:** East Texas Food Bank – ETFB is providing free emergency food boxes (16 meals worth) 4/3/20 at the drive-thru distribution site at the East Texas State Fairgrounds in Tyler.

**Van Zandt County:** Cities of Edgewood and Edom have canceled all mass gathering until further notice.

**Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)**

**DDC 16 – Rosenberg** (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda and Wharton Counties)

**Fort Bend County:** Fort Bend County Health and Human Services (FBCHHS) are now operationally supporting their own drive-thru testing at screening locations in the Cities of Richmond, Rosenberg, and Sugar Land for high-risk individuals only. The Office of Emergency Management is assisting with the internal entity notification of cases.

**City of Richmond:** Oak Bend Medical Center has opened a private supported testing site at its Sandhill location. Private insurance or a form of payment are required. The charge is \$100.00 without insurance.

**City of Belleville:** Drive-thru testing is available at Belleville Medical Center from 0900-1300 by physician order by appointment only.

**City of Rosenberg:** Fort Bend County has opened a public supported testing site at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds drive thru testing 0900-1500. There is no charge for services.

**City of Sugar Land:** United Memorial Medical Center has opened a supported testing site at Smart Financial Center Drive., The site supports drive thru testing Tuesday 1000-1600, and Wednesday 0900-1600. There is no charge for services.

### **Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)**

**DDC 19 – Laredo** (Includes: Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb and Zapata, Counties)

**Webb County:** The City of Laredo has set-up their drive thru test site at the Park and Ride located at 1819 E. Hillside Rd.

**DDC 20 – Corpus Christi** (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

Office at United Way of Greater Houston has been closed due confirmation of a COVID-19 POSITIVE case in the call center. TIRN has rapidly deployed laptops for remote work capability to answer 2-1-1 calls for the Gulf Coast, Fort Worth and Coastal Bend regions.

**Live Oak County:** The fire departments also have set up decontamination stations for all reusable PPE. The Health Department has ordered a product called (Envirocleanse) a known product used to kill COVID-19 virus, ordered a 55-gallon drum direct from the vendor.

#### **Nueces County:**

**Port of Corpus Christi Authority (PCCA):** On April 2, 897 gallons of hands sanitizer was distributed. PCCA continued preparation activities for “Operations First Responder Hand Sanitizer” in partnership with HEB and numerous regional cooperators to provide hand sanitizer to local first responders throughout the Coastal Bend region. Cooperators include Deep Eddy’s Vodka, Coastal Bend Multi Agency Coordination Center, Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council, Texas Division of Emergency of Emergency Management, South Central District Firefighters Association and numerous others. PCCA departments include Maintenance, Port Security, Procurement, Communications and Chief Executive Officer.

**DDC 21 – Weslaco** (Includes: Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties)

**Cameron County:** The Cameron County Sheriff’s Office will implement a special task force to enforce the Stay-at-Home order.

On April 3 the City of South Padre Island will began using vehicle checkpoints to enforce the County stay at home orders.

**Hidalgo County:** The Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office will be enforcing the Stay-at-Home orders. Individuals not in compliance will receive a citation or be arrested for violating the order.

City of Weslaco will begin to enforce no more than two (2) individuals per group may enter any business at any given time. Enforcement of the order will commence on April 2.

The City of Edcouch will begin to implementing checkpoints within their jurisdiction to enforce Hidalgo County Shelter at Home Order.

**Willacy County:** The Willacy County Judge reminded residents of the importance of the Stay-at-Home order and the enforcement of order.

City of Raymondville Police Department will begin the enforcement of the Willacy Countywide State-at Home order.

**DDC 24 – Del Rio** (Includes: Dimmit, Edwards, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde and Zavala Counties)

**Dimmit County:** County Judge Francisco G. Ponce signed an Executive Order filed 04/02/2020. Executive Order: Business (HEB/Wal-Mart) to dedicate time from 8am to 9am for senior residents

- Establishments providing essential services to have markers at checkout station clearly marking 6 feet.
- 24-hour curfew for children under age of 18.
- One person per family to enter establishment to purchase necessary products.
- No child under the age of 18 to enter establishment alone without parent/guardian.
- Elderly without care of a home provider may contact the Dimmit County Elderly Nutrition Center to have home meals delivered during the pandemic.

**Kinney County:** Brackett Independent School District will provide lunch for students from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. A student ID is required.

**Maverick County:** Community Hotline has tripled their call volume, in assisting both medical assistance and general declaration guidance. The EOC Task Force was active, they had closed two non-complying business, and issued two citations, referencing local emergency declarations.

#### **Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9, and 10)**

**DDC 8 – El Paso** (Includes: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties)

**El Paso County:** An amended order requires residents returning home from a travel distance of 100 miles or more to self-quarantine for 14 days.

**City of El Paso:** A Drive-thru testing facility is open to first responders, healthcare workers, those of any age that are symptomatic and citizens aged 65 and older with a temperature of 99.6F or above. A Doctor's note is required. Location is at 301 George Perry Blvd.

El Paso is working on setting up a hotel for first responders that test positive so that they can quarantine for 14 days. Drive thru testing facility is up and running at 301 George Perry which is open to first responders, medical personnel, 65 Y/O or older and for those of any age that are symptomatic. There is a separate private entity that are conducting drive thru testing for a cost

to the local seeking testing.

There is a separate private entity that is conducting drive thru testing for a cost to the local seeking testing.

The El Paso Food Bank has set up five points of distribution (PODs). Law Enforcement is assisting with traffic flow.

### **Region 5** (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

TDEM's Region 5 Recovery personnel are reaching out to the local jurisdictions to ensure that they are preparing for and understand the disaster recovery processes.

**DDC 1 – Amarillo** (Includes: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher and Wheeler Counties)

DDC 1 remains at a Level II with all partners virtual and is coordinating with Panhandle RAC to distribute PPE according to STAR requests.

**DDC 2 – Lubbock** (Includes: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum Counties)

PPE shortages continue to be the main issue impacting all most jurisdictions.

**DDC 3 – Wichita Falls** (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young Counties)

#### **Baylor County:**

**City of Seymour:** Passed new ordinances to mitigate COVID spread.

### **Region 6 – Situation:**

**DDC 12 – Austin** (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties)

#### **Burnet County:**

**City of Marble Falls:** The Highland Lakes Crisis Network is collecting and distributing food to individuals who cannot/should not get out. Requests can be made online at:  
<https://www.highlandlakescrisisnetwork.com/>

**DDC 23 – Killeen** (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

On April 2, PPE delivered to outlying counties for first responders and healthcare providers.

**Shelter-in-Place Orders/Stay-At-Home Orders:**

<b>Counties w/orders in place</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Total Population Covered</b>	<b>26,211,460</b>
<b>Percent of Total Texas Population</b>	<b>89.1%</b>

<b>Counties</b>	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Population</b>
Anderson	2-Apr	2-Apr	60,160
Angelina	29-Mar	30-Mar	90,822
Aransas	27-Mar	27-Mar	27,567
Bastrop	30-Mar	1-Apr	90,036
Bee	27-Mar	27-Mar	33,487
Bell	23-Mar	23-Mar	366,853
Bexar	23-Mar	24-Mar	2,005,425
Bowie	27-Mar	27-Mar	96,365
Brazoria	26-Mar	26-Mar	389,943
Brazos	23-Mar	24-Mar	237,067
Brewster	31-Mar	31-Mar	10,257
Brooks	27-Mar	29-Mar	7,271
Brown	26-Mar	27-Mar	40,153
Caldwell	30-Mar	31-Mar	44,378
Cameron	26-Mar	25-Mar	438,850
Cass	1-Apr	2-Apr	31,271
Castro	24-Mar	24-Mar	7,967
Chambers	24-Mar	24-Mar	45,686
Clay	3-Apr	3-Apr	11,116
Collin	24-Mar	24-Mar	1,052,827
Comal	27-Mar	27-Mar	150,741
Culberson	25-Mar	25-Mar	2,337
Dallas	22-Mar	24-Mar	2,691,264
Denton	24-Mar	25-Mar	890,809
Duval	27-Mar	27-Mar	11,585
Ector	29-Mar	29-Mar	162,583
El Paso	24-Mar	24-Mar	873,710
Ellis	25-Mar	25-Mar	183,406
Erath	25-Mar	25-Mar	44,668
Fort Bend	24-Mar	25-Mar	817,514
Frio	30-Mar	30-Mar	19,879
Galveston	23-Mar	24-Mar	351,130
Gregg	25-Mar	25-Mar	127,868
Hale	31-Mar	31-Mar	35,672



Hansford	2-Apr	2-Apr	5,627
Hardin	27-Mar	27-Mar	59,168
Harris	24-Mar	25-Mar	4,758,401
Harrison	31-Mar	31-Mar	68,950
Hays	25-Mar	26-Mar	233,480
Hidalgo	25-Mar	26-Mar	892,240
Hockley	31-Mar	31-Mar	23,704
Hood	25-Mar	25-Mar	60,231
Hunt	23-Mar	24-Mar	97,332
Jasper	27-Mar	28-Mar	37,626
Jeff Davis	31-Mar	25-Apr	2,274
Jefferson	27-Mar	27-Mar	260,921
Jim Wells	27-Mar	28-Mar	41,562
Johnson	27-Mar	27-Mar	177,807
Kaufman	24-Mar	25-Mar	129,103
Kenedy	31-Mar	31-Mar	413
Kleberg	27-Mar	27-Mar	32,998
Lampasas	31-Mar	1-Apr	22,209
Lee	1-Apr	1-Apr	18,062
Leon	30-Mar	30-Mar	18,037
Liberty	24-Mar	24-Mar	88,365
Limestone	2-Apr	2-Apr	24,016
Live Oak	1-Apr	2-Apr	12,862
Llano	30-Mar	30-Mar	23,824
Lubbock	29-Mar	29-Mar	319,900
Madison	30-Mar	30-Mar	14,989
Marion	30-Mar	1-May	10,574
Maverick	30-Mar	30-Mar	60,260
McLennan	24-Mar	24-Mar	261,206
Milam	24-Mar	25-Mar	26,308
Mitchell	3-Apr	3-Apr	8,570
Montgomery	27-Mar	28-Mar	617,800
Nacogdoches	29-Mar	30-Mar	67,771
Navarro	25-Mar	25-Mar	51,510
Newton	30-Mar	30-Mar	14,270
Nueces	25-Mar	26-Mar	372,935
Orange	27-Mar	28-Mar	85,436
Panola	31-Mar	1-Apr	24,184
Pecos	2-Apr	2-Apr	16,101
Polk	25-Mar	27-Mar	52,167

Potter	30-Mar	30-Mar	125,261
Presidio	31-Mar	31-Mar	7,729
Randall	1-Apr	1-Apr	138,742
Refugio	1-Apr	1-Apr	7,393
Robertson	25-Mar	25-Mar	18,215
Rockwall	24-Mar	24-Mar	104,235
Sabine	30-Mar	30-Mar	11,876
San Augustine	30-Mar	30-Mar	8,237
San Jacinto	25-Mar	25-Mar	28,859
San Patricio	27-Mar	30-Mar	66,730
Scurry	26-Mar	27-Mar	17,152
Smith	27-Mar	27-Mar	235,560
Starr	24-Mar	24-Mar	68,280
Stephens	23-Mar	23-Mar	9,769
Stonewall	27-Mar	29-Mar	1,483
Tarrant	23-Mar	23-Mar	2,112,559
Taylor	31-Mar	30-Apr	139,604
Terry	2-Apr	2-Apr	12,943
Travis	24-Mar	25-Mar	1,292,042
Trinity	30-Mar	31-Mar	17,263
Tyler	28-Mar	28-Mar	23,139
Val Verde	23-Mar	24-Mar	49,025
Victoria	1-Apr	2-Apr	95,359
Webb	27-Mar	28-Mar	285,552
Wichita	29-Mar	30-Mar	133,469
Willacy	26-Mar	26-Mar	19,949
Williamson	24-Mar	24-Mar	571,532
Wood	1-Apr	1-Apr	47,020
Young	31-Mar	15-Apr	18,623

**RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Resource Kind and Type</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Location</b>
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
AgriLife	Specialists/Admin	12		Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Extension Agents	10		Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	Strike Teams	139		Activated	Statewide
DPS-HSCO	GIS Specialist	1	1	Assigned	SOC/Austin

DPS-THP	Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS-THP	Personnel	4	4	Assigned	Dallas County
DPS-THP	Personnel	8	8	Assigned	Harris County
DPS-THP	HSOC GIS Specialist	1	1	Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS THP	Troopers			Assigned	Statewide
DPS CID	Special Agents			Assigned	Statewide
DPS COMMS	Command Trailer		1	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	MIST	2		Assigned	DDC 4A Hurst
DSHS	MIST	4		Assigned	Denton State School
DSHS	Public Health Regions and Regional Health and Medical Operations Center	149		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS SMOC	SMOC Staff	77		Assigned	Telework
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Virtual
TAHC	AROCC Operations	6		Assigned	Virtual
TAHC	Logistics	1		Assigned	Virtual
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TDLR	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TEA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TFS	Logistical Support	18		Assigned	San Antonio
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TFS	Planning Support	2		Assigned	DDC 7
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	DDC 3
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	DDC 17
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	DDC 20
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	DDC 5 & 6
TFS	ESF 4 Representative	1		Assigned	SOC/Remote
TFS	Type III IMT	5		Assigned	DDC 4B & Remote
TFS	Liaison Officer	1		Assigned	DDC 7 (remote)
TFS	Planning Support	1		Assigned	DDC 15
TFS	Operational Support	1		Assigned	DSHS Region 1 / Lubbock
TFS	Planning Support (on Site)	1		Assigned	DDC 2
TFS	Logistical Support	1	1	Assigned	DDC 03 DDC 07
TMD	SOC Military Desk	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	SOC Food Unit	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin

TMD	SOC Logs Veters	11		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	Military District Coordinators	15		Assigned	Abilene, Austin, Bryan, Conroe, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Garland, Houston, Hurst, Lubbock, Pierce, San Antonio, Tyler, Weslaco
TMD	J6 Support	6		Assigned	Austin
TMD	ETN Support	4		Assigned	Garland
TMD	GSU 08	34		Assigned	Kingsville
TMD	GSU 10-1	34		Assigned	Houston
TMD	BJTF Mission Cmd	4		Assigned	Fort Worth
TMD	BJTF Mission Cmd	4		Assigned	Houston
TMD	BJTF Mission Cmd	4		Assigned	Austin
TMD	JTF LNO 3 Bde Cmd	3		Assigned	Austin
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Lubbock
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Austin
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	General Support Unit	36		Assigned	Houston
TMD	GSU for Bde Support	20		Assigned	Fort Worth
TMD	GSU for Bde Support	20		Assigned	Houston
TMD	GSU for Bde Support	20		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Engineering Assistance	24		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Traffic Control ECPT	5		Activated	Huntsville
TMD	EMCC Staff Aug	5		Activated	Arlington
TMD	NTFB Food Distribution	288		Activated	Plano
TMD	GSU Set Up FNS	30		Activated	Dallas
TMD	ABS MRP	3		Activated	Austin
TMD	TDEM Warehouse Support	3		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	PAX Making M95 Masks	1		Assigned	N Richland Hills
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	DDC 4B Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Garland
TPWD	Caldwell County EOC PIO	1	1	Assigned	Caldwell County

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

**The four levels of SOC activation are:**

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>*

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