

# The Texas Governor's Report to Open Texas

## April 27, 2020

Governor Abbott has announced the State of Texas' phased plan to reopen our economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis based on input from the Texas Strike Force Committee.

*As we begin to open Texas, we must continue to follow these critical health guidelines: Stay home if you can. Wash hands often and for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, doorknobs, and other places touched often. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Continue to practice social distancing, avoid crowds, and limit physical contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends using simple cloth face coverings in public to help slow the spread of the virus.* FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

### Key information is provided along with a link to the full report..

- The new executive order will **supersede all local orders** and allows the current stay-at-home orders to expire at 11:59 PM on Thursday, April 30th. This allows a business the option to open but is not a requirement.
  - Local orders mandating face masks and coverings: the executive order **encourages masks but does not require them.**
- Note: less strict standards will apply to counties with 5 or less cases.
- Phase 1 commences **Friday, May 1st** and includes:
  - All retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, malls, museums, and libraries may reopen at **25% capacity.**
  - Churches and places of worship will have expanded capacity from previous orders.
  - People can engage in outdoor sports that involve no more than **4 participants at a time** (i.e. golf and tennis).
  - All licensed healthcare professionals can return to work and reopen offices.
  - Hospitals must maintain **15% capacity dedicated to COVID-19 patients.**
  - All essential business can continue operating as they have under the previous executive orders.
- Phase 2 is proposed to begin **as soon as Monday, May 18th.** Additional openings for Phase 2 will be evaluated during Phase 1 and dependent on reporting cases or flare-ups of new COVID-19 cases due to Phase 1.
  - Barber shops, hair salons, gyms, and bars are expected to reopen.
  - Phase 1 businesses will be able to **increase to 50% capacity.**
- Reopening Texas involves 4 factors:
  - Commitment by customers, businesses and employees to **continue safe distancing standards.** ***Reference check lists for individuals and businesses and best practices published.***
  - Reliance on medical data from doctors and other health experts to inform all decisions.
  - Focus on **protecting the most vulnerable populations**, including senior citizens.

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