



### **Gov. Abbott Announces Phase 2 to Reopen Texas**

On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Gov. Greg Abbott announced the next phase of his Reopen Texas plan, allowing childcare centers, youth sports and clubs to fully open. Previously closed businesses such as bars, breweries, driving ranges, bowling alleys, bingo halls, skating rinks, rodeos, zoos and aquariums were allowed to reopen on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, but required to limit patrons to 25% capacity.

Businesses located in office buildings may reopen but must limit their occupancy to the greater of 10 employees or 25% of their workforce. Nonessential manufacturers may resume their operations as long as they keep occupancy at 25% and maintain 6 feet between workers.

On Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, restaurants were allowed to increase to 50% indoor capacity.

On Sunday, May 31, youth daytime and overnight camps along with Little League will be allowed to reopen, as well as professional sports without fans. The governor also gave school districts the option of opening in-person summer school by June.

### **Hot Spots of Amarillo and El Paso Asked to Delay Phase 2**

The governor did exempt two hotspots in the state, delaying phase 2 plans for these areas until May 29<sup>th</sup>. El Paso and a four-county area in the Texas Panhandle including the Amarillo area are both currently experiencing surges in the number of cases reported. The spike in cases resulting in the delay in the four Panhandle counties (Potter, Randall, Moore and Deaf Smith) is believed to be linked to meat-packing facilities. El Paso County was also asked to delay implementing this phase to reopen Texas due to an increase in cases in that area and concerns for hospital capacity to deal with the surge.

The governor has deployed a surge response team to the Amarillo area to test employees at the meat-packing plants and to assist with segregating sick individuals and sanitizing the facilities.

### **Suggestions Not Requirements, Use Common Sense**

The governor said none of the minimum standards are requirements, but suggestions. He repeatedly stressed the need for Texans to use common sense by wearing masks, continuing to exercise social distancing and personal hygiene and sanitizing practices.

The governor's announcement comes 18 days after his phase 1 plans were released. He reinforced that plans to reopen Texas are based on data and science, and that the recommendations were backed unanimously by the medical experts with whom he is working.

### **Number of Cases Will Rise but Key Indicators Continue to Decline**

The governor indicated the state was continuing to expand testing sites with more than 600 locations including 64 mobile testing stations throughout the state. He stated that as more tests are given, the state will continue to see an increase in the number of cases, but he pointed out that key indicators include that the number of positive test results and hospitalization rates continue a downward trend. In early April, approximately 13% of those tested were positive. That number had declined to less than 5% today. The number of hospitalizations has continued to decline since April 21. The governor said the highest rates of infection are jails, nursing homes and meat packing plants.

During the press conference, the governor also announced a new voluntary statewide testing and contact tracing program. Developed and implemented by DSHS, this program will help identify individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and those who may need to quarantine or be tested due to potential exposure. More details about the contact tracing program are available in the [Governor's Report to Open Texas](#) beginning on page 16.

[Click here](#) to view more information on the governor's efforts to reopen Texas.

Additional details:

New, in effect May 31, 2020

- [Day Youth Camp Operators](#)
- [Day Youth Camp Families](#)

- [Overnight Youth Camp Operators](#)
- [Overnight Youth Camp Families](#)
- [Professional Sports Without In-Person Spectators](#)

New, in effect May 22, 2020

- [Bars](#)
- [Bar Patrons](#)
- [Bowling Alleys, Bingo Halls, Simulcasting, Skating Rinks](#)
- [Bowling, Bingo, Simulcasting, Skating Customers](#)
- [Rodeo/Equestrian Events](#)
- [Zoos, Aquariums, Natural Caverns](#)
- [Zoo, Aquarium, Natural Cavern Visitors](#)

New, in effect as of May 18, 2020

- [Child Care Centers](#)
- [Child Care Families](#)
- [Massage and Personal Care, Beauty Services](#)
- [Massage and Personal Care, Beauty Service Customers](#)
- [Youth Clubs](#)
- [Youth Club Participants](#)
- [Youth Sports Operators](#)
- [Youth Sports Families](#)

Effective May 18, 2020

- [Gyms/Exercise Facilities](#) (updated May 18, 2020)
- [Gym/Exercise Facility Patrons](#) (updated May 18, 2020)
- [Manufacturers](#) (updated May 18, 2020)
- [Office-Based Employers](#) (updated May 18, 2020)
- [Office-Based Employees](#) (updated May 18, 2020)

Effective May 8, 2020

- [Barber Shops](#)

- [Barber Shop Customers](#)
- [Cosmetology/Hair Salons](#)
- [Cosmetology/Hair Salon Customers](#)
- [Nail Salons/Shops](#)
- [Nail Salon Customers](#)
- [Tanning Salons](#)
- [Tanning Salon Customers](#)

***Sarah Rayburn***

*Executive Director – PHCC*