



TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION | SINCE 1919

6-26-20

## COVID-19

The below information is compiled to assist you in planning and preparation during this unprecedented time. The status of the COVID-19 pandemic is extremely dynamic with information changing by the minute. Please utilize links for most up-to-date information and contact TXOGA if you have any questions relating to the information provided.

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE NEXT COVID-19 UPDATES WILL BE SENT \*\*\***

**Thursday, July 2**

### Statistics:

**NEW** Texas Case Count (DSHS): 131,917 cases, 2,296 Deaths

**NEW** National Case Count (CDC):

Total cases: 2,414,870

Total deaths: 124,325

### Recent updates

#### Executive/Legislative Updates

- **NEW** 6.26.20 Governor Greg Abbott secures [extension of federally supported COVID-19 testing sites in Texas](#).
  - The federal government will maintain support for the program while surging resources to Dallas and Houston in order to support testing needs within the community.
- **NEW** 6.26.20 Governor Greg Abbott issued [executive order \(GA-28\)](#) as part of the state's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, [limiting certain businesses and services](#). The order includes the following:
  - All bars and similar establishments that receive more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages are required to close at 12:00 PM today. These businesses may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC.)
  - Restaurants may remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy, beginning Monday, June 29, 2020.
  - Rafting and tubing businesses must close.
  - Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

- **NEW 6.25.20** Governor Greg Abbott announced the [temporary pause of additional reopening phases](#) as the state responds to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.
  - Businesses that are permitted to open under the previous phases can continue to operate at the designated occupancy levels and under the minimum standard health protocols provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
  
- **NEW 6.25.20** Governor Greg Abbott issued a [new executive order \(GA-27\)](#) relating to the [need for increased hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).
  - This executive order suspends elective surgeries at hospitals in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Travis counties.
  - Through proclamation, the Governor can add or subtract from the list of counties included in the Executive Order to address surges in hospitalizations that may arise in other parts of the state.
  
- **NEW 6.24.20** Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of Emergency Management announced they are [providing free mask to all Texans who are tested at state-run COVID-19 mobile testing sites](#).
  - Beginning June 25, each Texan who receives a COVID-19 test at a state-run mobile testing site will be provided with four masks to take home with them.
  - Texans can find a testing site near them by visiting TDEM's [COVID-19 Test Collection Site map](#).
  
- **NEW 6.24.20** The Office of the Governor and UT Southwestern Medical Center [release new Spanish-Language COVID-19 PSA](#).
  - In the PSA, Amneris Luque, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease and Geographic Medicine, advises Texans to wear a mask in public, avoid touching your face, wash your hands frequently and effectively, and practice social distancing.
  
- **NEW 6.23.20** Governor Greg Abbott held [a press conference](#) to discuss additional steps the state is taking in recent weeks and provided an update on the recent surge in several counties. He stressed the 5 points below to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
  - Governor Abbott and other members of the task force expressed the importance of wearing face coverings or masks in any commercial business.
  - Texans and Texas businesses were also urged keep following the [Minimum Standard Health Protocols](#).
  - TABC is currently suspending the liquor licenses of many bars and other establishments not following social distancing guidelines.
  - DSHS is working with CDC to surge test areas that are becoming hotspots. This will include assistance from the National Guard.

- DSHS is working with hospitals to ensure they can treat all COVID-19 cases. There is still an abundant supply of hospital beds available and hospitals remain in the pre-surge phase.
- **NEW 6.23.20** Governor Greg Abbott issued [a proclamation](#) allowing [HHCS to enact further safety for childcare centers and expanding the ability of local authority to impose restrictions](#). These two actions are based on data showing an increase in COVID-19 transmission stemming from large gatherings and child care centers.
  - Local authority (mayors and county judges) now has the expanded ability to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of over 100 people.
  - The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) now to enact emergency rules that provide strict health and safety standards and procedures related to COVID-19 for childcare centers in Texas.
- **NEW 6.23.20** Governor Greg Abbott announced the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is [distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug, Remdesivir, across Texas](#).
  - DSHS is distributing 368 additional cases of the antiviral drug to 142 hospitals across the state of Texas.
  - This is the fifth round of distribution from the federal government. At 368 cases, enough to treat approximately 1,472 patients, this is the largest distribution so far and brings the total cases distributed to Texas hospitals by DSHS to 977.
  - Medical staff at each hospital will determine how the drug will be used, though it must be prescribed in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration's [Emergency Use Authorization](#), allowing for the treatment of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe disease, such as those in intensive care. Preliminary results from a clinical trial showed the average recovery time among patients who received remdesivir was 11 days versus 15 days with a placebo. The supply is part of a donation from drug maker Gilead.

#### County/City Updates

- **NEW 6.26.20** Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo moved the County's COVID-19 threat level system to its move severe ranking, level one, which indicates a "severe and uncontrolled" spread of COVID-19.
  - [According to the threat system](#), residents are urged to stay home and avoid leaving unless for essential needs.

#### Restrictions on Travel or Movement

- **UPDATED** [TEXAS ORDINANCE DOCUMENT](#). TXOGA has developed a spreadsheet to assist in tracking various state, county and city ordinances. This is a dynamic document and can change daily.
- [Texas' border states and their current statewide orders](#)

#### COVID-19 Testing

- **UPDATED** TDEM's [statewide COVID-19 test collection online map](#) to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.

## Links and Resources

### General

#### Latest Health Authorities Updates

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) Guidance](#)
  - [Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)
  - [Communications toolkits](#)

### Federal

- White House
  - President's [30 days to slow the Spread of Corona virus \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - [Guidelines: Opening Up America Again](#) containing three recommended phases to return to business as usual
- Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency
  - [Version 3.0 of CISA Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)
  - [Critical Infrastructure Guidance: Version 2.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker Guidance](#)
  - [Interim Guidance](#) for implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
  - [Do's and Don'ts](#) for employers and employees related to COVID-19 exposures

### State

- [The Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas](#) has listed the new and updated statuses of businesses, services and activities around Texas.
- Texans Helping Texans: [The Governor's Report to Open Texas.](#)
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts [Guidance and News Updates](#)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) [COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) [COVID-19 page](#) outlining agency action
- Texas Supreme Court COVID-19 [court operation guidance](#)
- Shelter in Place [Map](#) for Texas' Counties

### Workplace guidance for employers

- OSHA [guidance and resources](#)
- CDC [guidance for workplace](#)

## References

## **TXOGA Information, Outreach and Responses**

- TXOGA President Todd Staples was appointed to lead Governor Abbott's Strike Force to Open [Energy Workgroup](#).
- [DPS Screening at Louisiana Border and DPS Response to TXOGA](#)
  - [Regional Office Maps](#) This map outlines the boundaries of the various Highway Patrol offices. Upon identifying the specific region you are looking for, search for the office and a contact name and phone number will update.
- TAM's (with TXOGA and other allied trades) [letter](#) to Mexico's health administration regarding adoption of [CISA guidelines](#) for critical infrastructure industries.
- [Texas' border states and their current statewide orders](#).
- [TXOGA information on PPE donations and/or selling of supplies](#).
  - For specific communities you service, please contact TXOGA's Executive Director of STEER, Stephanie Moreno at [smoreno@steer.com](mailto:smoreno@steer.com).
- [TXOGA GUIDANCE 3.24.20 on CISA guidelines for critical infrastructure workers](#)

## **Executive/Legislative Updates**

- [Press conference on June 16](#) update on COVID-19 response and hospital capacity across the state.
- Cowboys Linebacker Jaylon Smith [release COVID-10 PSA: "Wear A Mask On And Off The Field"](#)
- [Proclamation](#) extending disaster declaration in June 2020 amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Proclamation](#) extending disaster declaration in June 2020 for Texas counties affected by Hurricane Harvey.
- Office of the Governor and Nolan Ryan [release new PSA for COVID-19: "Don't Be A Knucklehead."](#)
- [DSHS distributing additional rounds of antiviral drug, Remdesivir, across the state](#).
- [Expanded testing in underserved communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19](#).
- [Tropical Depression Cristobal preparedness and COVID-19 considerations](#).
- [Extension of emergency SNAP benefits during COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- [Phase III](#) to reopen Texas
- [GA-26](#) relating to the expanded services allowed to reopen in Phase III.
- [Update on State's response to protests](#)
- [Prosecution](#) For protest agitators violating federal law
- [Proclamation](#) declaring [State of Disaster for all Texas counties](#) and [surges state resources in response to protests](#).
- [COVID surge response in Amarillo](#)
- [Proclamation](#) expanding the enumerated list of Covered Services in GA-23.
- [GA-25](#) suspending [in-person visitations in county and municipal jails](#).
- [GA-24](#) relating to the [termination of air travel restrictions](#) & [GA-20](#)
- (HHSC) [expansion of testing to all state hospitals and state supported living centers](#).
- [Additional drive-thru testing sites in Texas at CVS Health stores](#).
- [Letter](#) to all state agencies and institutions of higher education directing them to reduce budgets by five percent.
- [GGA statement to local governments against increasing property taxes for Texas](#).

- [GA-23](#) was issued for the expanded opening of Texas.
- [Partnership with local fire departments to expand testing in nursing homes.](#)
- [Extension](#) of federally supported [community-based testing sites in Texas.](#)
- [Extension of COVID-19 disaster declaration for all Texas counties.](#)
- [Letter](#) to Congressional Leaders asking them to [support liability protections for Texas employers.](#)
- [Proclamation](#) concerning early voting for special elections to occur on July 14, 2020. Early voting by personal appearance shall begin on Monday, June 29, 2020.
- [Letter](#) sent to [city and county leaders regarding the \\$5.06 billion available funds](#)
- [Texas Education Agency launch operation to deliver internet connectivity for children across state](#)
- [Application for FEMA assistance funds to support Texas food banks.](#)
- [GA-22](#) relating to [confinement during the COVID-19 disaster.](#)
- [Texas COVID Relief Fund with Texas OneStar Foundation](#)
- The Texans Back to Work Task Force [presented its final report](#) to Lt. Gov. Patrick.
- [GA-21](#) relating to the expanded reopening of services (hair salons, barbershops, etc.) and an [update on the reopening of Texas.](#)
- Governor Abbott [announces phase one to Open Texas and establishes statewide minimum health protocols](#) and issued the following new executive orders [GA 18](#), [GA 19](#), [GA 20](#) (REPEALED), and the Governor's Report to [Open Texas](#) which outline the ability for Texas to begin opening for business on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- TDEM's [statewide COVID-19 test collection online map](#) to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.
- TDHCA [will provide HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance \(TBRA\) to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.](#)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will provide [a series of free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire, and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas](#)
- Temporarily [waiver](#) for certain testing requirements for advanced practice registered nurses
- [Update on job openings](#) in Texas and resources for Texans seeking employment
- Texas National Guard will be organizing and constructing [mobile testing sites around the state.](#)
- [GA-17](#) relating to the establishment of the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas.
- [GA-16](#) relates to the safe, strategic reopening of select services and activities in Texas. This order establishes a temporary "Retail-To-Go" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen beginning Friday, April 24.
- [GA-15](#) relates to hospital capacity and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for the COVID-19 response. The order loosens restrictions on surgeries [put in place by Governor Abbott in March.](#)
- Office of Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) [launches small business webinar series.](#)
- [\\$38 million in federal COVID-19 emergency funding for local governments](#)

- [Governor Abbott, Goldman Sachs, LiftFund announce \\$50 million in loans for small businesses](#)
- [Extension of disaster declaration.](#)
- Online [Frontline Child Care Website](#) to help **essential workers** in Texas locate child care and support child care centers who are caring for these children during the outbreak.
- [Update on incoming shipments of PPE and distribution in Texas](#)
- [Update on State's Robust Hospital Capacity.](#)
- [TDEM Guidance to Sectors under CISA on GA-12 , GA-11 and GA-14](#)
- [GA-14](#) relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities through April 30, 2020.
- [GA-12](#) mandates a 14-day quarantine for road travelers arriving from any location in Louisiana. REPEALED
- [GA-11](#) mandating 14-day quarantine for air travelers. REPEALED
- [Deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades.](#)
- [Waiver for certain licensing renewal regulations and fees for nurses.](#)
- [GA-10](#) relating to swift submission of daily testing information
- [Major Disaster Declaration](#)
- Department of Public Health's [Declaration of a Public Health Disaster](#)
- [GA-08](#) relating to COVID- 19 preparedness and mitigation.

### Regulatory Updates

#### **Texas Attorney General's Office**

- AG's [Guidance Letter About Reopening Non-Essential Businesses Regarding GA-18.](#)
  - Attorney General Paxton opines that "*the Governor's order is neither vague nor unenforceable, and local governments are prohibited from allowing businesses to reopen unless they are recognized as essential or reopened services under the Governor's order.*"
- [Application of the temporary exemption for qualified property damaged by a disaster does not apply to COVID-19 losses](#)
- [Letter on local governments restricting state employees/contractors from conducting services](#)

#### **Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**

- [Comptroller issues April release on tax collections](#) and was down significantly
- [Comptroller Hegar's response to TXOGA's letters on 4.11.20 and 3.30.20](#) asking the **Comptroller's Office** use the described price scenario in performing the school district value study and, that under the authority of the Comptroller under the Tax Code, the proposed pricing be used by the state's Central Appraisal Districts for the current tax year. The Comptroller has determined the agency does not have flexibility regarding the January 1 valuation date. Keep in mind, operators continue to have the ability to take their valuation protests to the ARBs and if appropriate, to court.
- [Due date extending for 2020 Texas franchise tax reports](#)

### Texas General Land Office

- [Royalty and lease relief on state lands](#)

### Public Utility Commission

- Public Utility Commission (PUC) [will consider its COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program again](#).

### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- TCEQ [response letter](#) to the HDC Committee on Clean Air, Clean Water, and Climate Change.
- HDC Committee on Clean Air, Clean Water, and Climate Change [letter](#) to TCEQ regarding the decision to exercise enforcement discretion on a case-by-case basis for rule or permit violations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Guidance on bulk crude oil storage](#)
- [Letter addressing COVID-19 response and requests to rescind the agency's enforcement discretion and administrative relief policies](#)
- [Air Permits New Sign Variance Form](#)

### Texas Railroad Commission (RRC)

- [RRC Energy Minute](#) summarizing the latest round of relief items
- Chairman Wayne Christian participated in the [Consumer Energy Alliance \(CEA\)'s Tele-Townhall](#) to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the Texas Railroad Commission in 2020 and beyond.
- Comm. Christi Craddick [participated in The Texas Tribune Series: Coronavirus in Texas](#) discussing the coronavirus impact, Texas oil prices and the economy.
- [Adopted revisions to form PS-48](#), new construction report.
- May 5 hearing [commissioners discussed](#) proration, the report produced by the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Oil Economic Recovery and common carrier pipeline and refinery storage capacity.
  - [The Blue Ribbon Task Force for Oil Economic Recovery report and letter to the commission](#)
  - In response, several statewide rule exceptions and fee waivers were introduced.
    - [Temporary exceptions to statewide rules 8, 13, 14 and 107](#)
    - [Temporary exception to certain fees & surcharges required by statewide rule 78](#)
    - [Temporary exception to statewide rule 95](#)
- Commission meeting on April 21 [discussed](#) motion to delay proration vote until May 5<sup>th</sup> and the formation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Oil Economic Recovery.
- Commissioner Craddick's [letter](#) to Comptroller requesting extension for monthly deadline on crude oil and natural gas production taxes.
- [RRC CASES](#): an on-line portal that allows the public and practitioners to view and access documents for complaints and other matters going through RRC's hearings process.
- Pipeline operators and local distribution companies

- [State of Disaster in Texas Waiver Requests](#) for gas pipeline operators on April 28
- [State of Disaster in Texas Waiver Requests](#).
- Oil and gas operating companies
  - [File form H-15, Test on an Inactive Well More than 25 Years Old, online using the RRC Online System](#).
  - [extension of certain expirations and filling requirements](#)
  - [waiver requests to the district director and assistant district director](#)

#### Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

- [TWC extensions to payment deadline for certain employers](#).
- [New TWC guidance for unemployment claimants](#).
- [\\$40,000,000 approved for supplemental childcare](#) for families/communities during COVID-19

#### Judicial Updates

- [Emergency order 17](#) amending existing provisions from the omnibus emergency [April 27 order](#).
- Updated and clarified many of its [emergency orders](#) addressing Texas courts' pandemic issues.
- [Texas Supreme Court Coronavirus Update and Court Guidance](#)
- TCJL's [outreach](#) to members on a potential increase in lawsuits during COVID-19 outbreak.
- [State Bar of Texas Updates and Resources](#)

#### County/City Updates

- Harris County [COVID-19 Alert System](#)
- Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued [new order requiring mandatory mask order](#).
- [State Representative Armando Walle to serve as the COVID-19 recovery czar for Harris County](#).
- [Marvin Odum, former president of Shell Oil, named recovery czar for City of Houston](#).

#### Fuel Waivers

- [TDLR temporarily waives ASTM requirements](#). Disaster declarations are anticipated to be renewed in May and June and likely beyond that date.
- Governor Greg Abbott, along with governors from Utah, Oklahoma and Wyoming, [sent a letter to EPA Administrator Wheeler](#) requesting a waiver for the renewable volume obligation (RVO) under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). This was not a TXOGA initiated request.
- [State Fuel waivers Tracker](#) for April, May and June listed by date issued. *Courtesy of API*
- [Texas TCEQ Low RPV Fuel Waiver](#)

- [EPA Fuel Waiver for gasoline transition from winter-grade, high volatility to summer-grade, low vapor pressure.](#)
- [TDLR RVP waiver language](#)

### **Federal News/Updates**

- [Press conference](#) June 5 on vaccine update, economy growth and new PPP flexibility act.
- [America Together: Returning to Work Town Hall with President Trump](#) on Sunday, President Trump believes there will be a coronavirus vaccine available by the end of the year and announced that 2.2 million small business loans worth \$175 billion have been made in the second round of the Payroll Protection Program.
- [New testing plan](#) laying out the roles and responsibilities to enhance the partnership between the private sector and the public sector, bringing together state and local governments with the federal government to accomplish and achieve the core principles and objectives.
- President Trump [signs \\$484 billion relief package](#)
- FEMA has published the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: addressing PPE needs in non-healthcare setting.](#)
- [Senate approves new \\$484B Relief Package.](#)
- [President Trump stated he is looking into solutions for American oil during current price concerns.](#)
- Both Governor Abbott and [President Trump anticipate releasing details on plans to get back to work later this week.](#)
- [CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program](#) to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic turndown.
- The Energy Information Agency has released its monthly [Short-Term Energy Outlook.](#)
- [Republican Congressional letter to White House](#) on prioritizing oil and natural gas producers/workforce.
- [Petition for emergency rulemaking in response to EPA guidance](#) from coalition of environmental and public interest groups
- [EPA's letter](#) regarding EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program during COVID-19.