



TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION | SINCE 1919

11-13-20

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 THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A WEEKLY COVID -19 UPDATE.
UPDATES WILL BE SENT AS NEEDED *****

Statistics:

NEW Texas Case Count (DSHS): 993,841 cases, 19,147 Deaths

NEW National Case Count (CDC):

Total cases: 10,508,864

Total deaths: 242,216

Recent updates

Executive/Legislative Updates

11.13.20 Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services ([DSHS](#)) [announced the distribution of antibody therapy to hospitals across Texas.](#)

- DSHS is allocating an initial shipment of bamlanivimab, the Eli Lilly & Company monoclonal antibody therapy, to be distributed as early as next week to acute care hospitals across every geographic region of the state. These weekly shipments of doses have been provided to the state at no cost through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Bamlanivimab is for outpatient use in people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are at increased risk of severe disease. It has been shown to prevent hospitalizations in some patients when used before they become very sick.

11.11.20 Governor Greg Abbott [deploys additional COVID-19 resources to El Paso & Lubbock.](#)

- These resources include medical personnel, medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), mobile testing sites, and more.

11.10.20 Governor Greg Abbott announce the [State of Texas has prepared allocation plans to swiftly distribute medicine and vaccines](#) that are now being available to treat COVID-19.

- The (FDA) [authorized](#) the immediate use of the first medical treatment developed for people who contract COVID-19. An antibody drug by Eli Lilly & Co., called bamlanivimab, has been shown to improve the symptoms of people who contract the virus and prevent hospitalizations.

Restrictions on Travel or Movement

- [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

- 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

- DSHS [minimum recommended health protocols](#) for safe operation.
- [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

- DSHS [COVID-19 communication tools](#) to help Texas businesses continue to operate safely.
- OSHA [guidance and resources](#)
- CDC [guidance for workplace](#)

References

TXOGA Information, Outreach and Responses

- TXOGA President Todd Staples was appointed to lead Governor Abbotts'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.
- [TXOGA GUIDANCE 3.24.20 on CISA guidelines for critical infrastructure workers](#)

Executive/Legislative Updates

- [DOD has deployed 3 U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams to assist the state's efforts in El Paso](#).
- Nov. 6 [proclamation](#) renewing state disaster declaration for COVID-19.
- [HHSC announced the extension of emergency SNAP benefits for month of November](#).
- 10/25 [additional HHS resources to mitigate COVID-19 in El Paso](#).
- [TDEM is establishing an alternate care site in El Paso to expand hospital capacity in the region](#).
- [Request to HHS to use William Beaumont Army Medical Center for non-COVID patients in El Paso](#).
- DSHS has [secured 2.8 million doses of flu vaccine for the Texas Vaccines for Children Program and the new Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative](#).
- [\(TEA\) establish targeted education funds for families of students with cognitive disabilities](#) to help offset learning disruptions related to COVID-19.
- DSHS & TDEM announced the [surge of resources to Amarillo and Lubbock to support COVID-19 response](#).
- TEA and TDEM announced the [creation of COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems](#).
- DSHS) and TDEM have [surged resources to support COVID-19 response in El Paso](#).
- [\(HHSC\) will receive more than \\$20 million for disaster crisis counseling services](#) for Texans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- October 8 [update to disaster declaration for regions with high COVID-19 hospitalizations](#).
- [EO-32](#): which allows [bars to open in qualifying counties](#).
- GGA [encourages health care providers to enroll in DSHS immunization program in preparation for COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- [TDEM announced the delivery of hand sanitizer from Anheuser-Busch in preparation for election day](#).
- [HHSC announced \\$3.5 million in federal funding for nursing facility safety projects](#).
- [Proclamation](#) enhancing [ballot security protocols for the in-person delivery of marked mail ballots](#)
- [HHS is offering temporary COVID-19 surge testing in McLennan County](#). October 7 - October 10
- [Extension of emergency SNAP benefits through the month of October](#).
- [\\$171 million in funding from CARES Act for rental assistance and Texas Eviction Diversion Program](#) due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Announcement](#) on Texas' health insurers to continue payments parity on telehealth appointments.
- September 17 [press conference on the state's response to COVID-19](#) with new guidelines.
- [E-31](#): Hospitals can return to elective surgeries

- **E-30:** Occupancy levels can increase to 75% capacity (if already at 50%): Retail stores, restaurants, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms/exercise facilities, museums and libraries
- [11 members appointed to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.](#)
- [PSA encouraging Texans to get a flu shot, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- **9.14.20** Governor Greg Abbott and other Texas leaders issued a [statement on President Trump's decision to withdraw the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation \(MFAR\)](#) alleviating challenges to the healthcare system because of COVID-19.
- Sept. 7 [statewide disaster declaration for COVID-19 extended.](#)
- [\(SBA\) has approved Texas' request for emergency designation for small business disaster loans following Hurricane Hanna.](#)
- [\(HHSC\) will extend emergency SNAP benefits for month of September in response to COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- [\(HHSC\) received federal approval to allow SNAP recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed by Hurricane Laura](#) that were provided in response to COVID-19.
- [GGA press conference to survey Hurricane Laura damage in Orange.](#)
- [Suspension of certain commercial truck regulations ahead of Hurricane Laura landfall](#)
- Mobilization of [Texas National Guard in response to tropical storm threats the Texas coast will face](#) within a COVID-19 environment.
- [\(FEMA\) has granted a Public Assistance Category B request](#) ahead of tropical storm threats the Texas coast will face.
- [Proclamation setting emergency special election for Texas Senate District 30 on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.](#)
- GGA [statement regarding the federal government approving \\$1.4 billion in funds made available for Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.](#)
- [\(TEA\) has procured over 1 million devices and WiFi hotspots](#) through the state's [Operation Connectivity.](#)
- TWC [applied for additional unemployment benefit through Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.](#)
- DSHS created [COVID-19 communication tools](#) to help Texas businesses continue to operate safely.
- DSHS [minimum recommended health protocols](#) for safe operation.
- Press conference in [Lubbock & El Paso](#) with local leaders and update on COVID-19 response.
- [\(HHS\) has extended federal-funded COVID-19 testing sites in Harris County.](#)
- Press conference in [Beaumont](#) and [Victoria](#) with local leadership on COVID-19 response.
- Aug. 14 [renewal and extension of state's disaster declaration for COVID-19.](#)
- HHSC announced [\\$1.1 billion in Quality Incentive Payment Program \(QIPP\) to support Texas nursing facilities](#)
- [\(HHS\) has established four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County.](#)
- [Houston Astros to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston.](#)
- [Press conference on the upcoming flu season](#) and mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and the flu.
- HHSC [deadline extension to Aug. 28, 2020 for Medicaid and CHIP Providers to apply for federal COVID-19 relief funds.](#)
- [PPE distribution to Texas schools for the 2020-2021 academic year](#)
- [Extension of federal funding for the Texas National Guard's mission to combat COVID-19.](#)
- HHSC [federal approval for SNAP benefit replacements for Hurricane Hanna disaster counties.](#)
- **7.31.20** Governor Greg Abbott [held a virtual meeting with local community leaders in Laredo & Eagle Pass](#) to discuss ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- July 31 [statement on school re-openings across the State of Texas due to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)
- HHSC [to extend the emergency SNAP benefits for the month of August](#)
- HHSC [extending flexibilities for Medicaid and CHIP recipients and providers through October 23.](#)

- RGV visit after Hurricane Hanna and [additional COVID-19 resources for RGV](#)
- HHSC [extending the application for pandemic food benefits for families affected by school closures to August 21](#).
- [Certain truck regulations waiver](#) to expedite Hurricane Hanna recovery in RGV and Coastal Bend.
- [Waiving of grade promotion requirement related to the STAAR test for students in grades 5 and 8](#), providing an opportunity to overcome the disruptions caused by COVID-19.
- [Proclamation for early voting period extended for November 3rd election](#) to vote and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- July 25 [press conference on the state's response to Hurricane Hanna](#) and [disaster declaration for affected areas](#).
- TDEM [move resources into position as Tropical Storm, Hanna, approaches Texas Gulf Coast](#).
- HHSC encourage eligible [Medicaid and CHIP providers to apply for federal COVID-19 relief funds before August 3 deadline](#).
- [New Bilingual COVID-19 PSA with Dr. Guadalupe Zamora, MD, of Zamora Medical Center](#).
- [Additional \\$118 million in federal funding to support Texas' higher education](#),
- GGA participated in [TXOGA's Virtual Energy Summit, Powering Forward - Texas Oil & Natural Gas](#), and provided remarks regarding the energy sector's pivotal role in the state's economy, COVID related updates in large producing areas and upcoming school re-opening strategies.
- [Virtual meeting with RGV leaders](#) on the unified efforts to combat COVID-19 in these communities.
- [New Spanish-language COVID-19 PSA with Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, MD, of UT Health San Antonio](#).
- [U.S. Navy's support in the RGV and Southwest Texas to help combat COVID-19](#).
- \$200M in CARES Act funding to TEA for [eLearning devices and home internet for Texas Students to enable remote learning during COVID-19](#).
- TEA's [additional reopening guidance](#), including [local option for online-only start to the 2020-2021 school year](#).
- [DOD will surge response to the Rio Grande Valley](#) to help combat COVID-19.
- [PSO will provide \\$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties in COVID-19 response](#).
- [Additional Department of Defense Resources to mitigate COVID-19](#).
- [Additional extension of federally supported COVID-19 testing sites in Texas](#).
- [Additional federal resources activated to combat COVID-19 in the Houston Region](#).
- Ominicare [testing for patients and staff of assisted living facilities and nursing homes](#).
- June 10 [proclamation](#) renewing/extending [COVID-19 disaster declaration for all Texas counties](#).
- June 9 [proclamation expanding hospital capacity in 11 trauma service areas](#).
- State's [\\$57 million investment in federal funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs](#) mitigating the adverse impacts of COVID-19.
- [HHS launched a COVID-10 surge testing site in Edinburg](#) July 9 – July 14.
- DSHS [announced the distribution of additional cases of Remdesivir](#), the antiviral drug for COVID-19.
- [Extension of disaster declaration for all counties in State of Texas](#).
 - This proclamation [amends paragraph 5 and 12 of EO-28](#) to:
- [EO-29](#) requiring [face covering over the nose and mouth](#) in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases.
- [HHSC extension of emergency SNAP benefits during COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- [Proclamation](#) adding additional counties to [\(GA-27\)](#) relating to the need for increased hospital
- [Proclamation](#) renewing and certifying that threats and incidents of violence constitute and continue to pose an imminent threat of disaster in the State of Texas.
- UT Head Football Coach Tom Herman [COVID-19 PSA: "The Power of Teamwork"](#)
- [HHSC extension deadline for pandemic food benefits for families affected by school closures](#).
- June 26 [extension of federally supported COVID-19 testing sites in Texas](#).

- [GA-28](#) limiting certain businesses and services: [re-closing bars, rafting/tubing, limiting outdoor gatherings to 100 or more and restaurants inside capacity at no more than 50%](#)
- June 25 [temporary pause of additional reopening phases](#)
- [GA-27](#) relating to the [need for increased hospital capacity](#).
- TDEM [providing free mask to all Texans who are tested at state-run COVID-19 mobile testing sites](#).
- [New Spanish-Language COVID-19 PSA](#) with Dr. Amneris Luque, Professor of Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease and Geographic.
- June 23 [press conference](#) to discuss additional steps the state is taking in recent weeks.
- [Proclamation](#) allowing [HHCS to enact further safety for childcare centers and expanding the ability of local authority to impose restrictions](#)
- DSHS is [distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug, Remdesivir, across Texas](#).
- [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 1st.
- 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 5th 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 filing 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 22](#): Extends and amends the 18th Emergency Order, prohibits jury proceedings until October 1 but authorizes limited number of jury proceedings under certain conditions.
- [Emergency Order 19](#): Cancels the July bar exam, leaves in place the in-person September 9-10 and approves an online bar exam on October 5-6.
- [Emergency Order 20](#): Renews and amends 15th Emergency Order covering residential evictions.
- [Emergency Order 21](#): Extends case filings until September 15 for limitations on civil case filings and service of them for deadlines that fall between March 13, 2020, and September 1.
- 6.29 [emergency order 18](#) amending existing provisions from the previous [May 26](#) order.
- [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

- October 6 RGV counties remain closed, but 3 ([Cameron, Starr and Willacy](#)) [move onto higher occupancy standards](#).
- Aug. 12 Harris County has [new guidance and a roadmap](#) for reopening schools.
- Harris County and the City of Houston's LHA ordered all public and non-religious private schools remain closed to in-person instruction until at least September 8, 2020.
- Officials in all five of the state's largest counties — [Dallas](#), [Tarrant](#), [Bexar](#), [Travis](#) and [Harris](#) — have ordered the closure of public schools through at least Labor Day
- **July 20** Hidalgo enacted a [shelter-at-home order Monday](#), which mandates residents to remain at home, establishes curfews and enforces facial coverings in public.
- **June 26** Harris County moved to "level one" on the [County's COVID-19 threat level system](#).
- 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

- [FEMA and President Trump approved Federal Emergency Declaration following Hurricane Hanna landfall.](#)
- Congressman Michael Cloud provided constituents with a [video update](#) regarding the Coastal Bend's recent surge in COVID-19 cases.
- [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.