

Notes from the Governors Press Conference 04-27-2020. These notes were provided to me. The notes are not inclusive of the entire conference call.

Jim Huff

Case counts in TX today as of 12:10 PM

Tested	290,517
Positive	25,297
Hospitalized	1563
Deaths	663
Counties	205 of 254

Numbers on the decline over the 17 days, hospitalizations have remained steady. We cannot lose sight of the people who have lost their lives. The tragedies have been fewer in TX and TX has the 3rd most recovered and recovered will soon exceed active cases.

This has had a grave economic impact. Just as we came together to slow the spread we now need to come together to re-open and rebuild.

We Closed schools, stopped travel, closed businesses and prevented gatherings. The Governor has also deployed 3000 national guard members to distribute PPE, do testing, serve at food banks etc.

We are also helping the TX workforce commission to staff up to handle the overwhelming number of claims. 1.0 million filed and 1.6 million processes. Now our goal is to get those Texans back to work.

The Governors stay at home order will expire on April 30th. Now we will set safe standards based on data and doctors to set safety practices to allow businesses to re-open in a safe manner.

There is a reason that not all Texas businesses can open all at once. Other countries are seeing second wave outbreaks. So we have to find ways to re-open and still contain the virus.

This will happen in phases. Consistent with CDC guidelines and doctor guidance.

Phase one will begin May 1. If that goes well the second phase will begin on May 18 which will open even more. We must continue social distancing in phase 1 now more than ever to be successful.

Phase 1.

People aged 65 and over must remain protected. If we are successful at protecting vulnerable populations we will see a reduction in deaths and we will redouble efforts to protect our senior living centers.

[Gov.texas.gov/open](https://gov.texas.gov/open) Texas – find the book

All retail businesses, restaurants, movie theaters, can open on May 1 but only at 25% occupancy – this proceeds all local orders. Museums and libraries can open at 25% but no hands on interactions.

Phase 2 will expand occupancy to 50% if phase one is successful.

This does not require businesses, this is only allowing them to do so. Sole proprietors can also return to work as well.

Churches can also re-open. We do however encourage the maximum social distancing measures.

Outdoor sports allowed but no more than 4 people in a group.

Doctors, Nurses and Dentists can return to work with few restrictions, but all hospitals must maintain 50% capacity for covid 19 patients.

Essential services will be allowed to continue as they have.

No two counties are the same. – A different standard can apply to those counties with 5 or fewer cases. They still have to abide by safety standards but can go directly to 50% capacity

Some businesses still cannot open. Bars, Barbers, hair salons and gyms cannot open yet. We hope to be able to open by mid may but it is too early to tell.

We know that childcare is essential, and required for folks to go back to work and we want that to be available to you.

We are also working on ways to open summer camps while still maintaining safety for our children

An important part of any re-opening plan is to develop a robust testing and tracing network. Phase two of that program starts today.

This process will help to box in and contain the covid 19 spread.

No matter when you do this there will be those that say it is too soon or not soon enough. – We believe these are the safe and proven strategies. The 25% capacity is how HEB and others have been operating and we know it has been ok.

You say you need two weeks of data to determine when the next phase starts – We hope to see the next phase start on may 18th. Just because we see more cases does not mean we stop. We must look at many things... trends, hospitalizations, data,. Spikes, etc and then we will evaluate when we can safely open the next phase.

Question about hair salons, etc. – We know that people want to see this happen but we have not yet found the solution that we are comfortable with. We know it is frustrating, but we will keep working to develop standards for those industries.