



MEMBER ALERT!

COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update

April 17, 2020

Governor Abbott Issues Two Executive Orders for Phased-In Strategy to Reopen the State Economy

TODAY -- Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order that outlines the process of reopening the Texas economy. To help this effort, the Governor has appointed a **Strike Force to Open Texas** that will study and make recommendations on safely and strategically restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the state's economy. Members of the Strike Force include Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Bonnen, Attorney General Ken Paxton, Comptroller Glenn Hegar, Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner John Hellerstead, Dr. Parker Hudson of the UT Dell Medical School, and former FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan. This Executive Order is effective immediately and will continue, subject to extension or amendment, through April 30, 2020.

The Order maintains existing essential services and adds a new category of "reopened services." Reopened services include "non-essential" retail services that can be provided through curbside pickup, mail, or by delivery to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with Department of State Health Services (DSHS) guidance. This portion of the order is effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. The details of the order are outlined in [EO-GA 16](#).

Governor Abbott also announced that effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2020, non-essential medical procedures are re-authorized provided that such procedures do not deplete hospital capacity or the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, such non-essential surgery or procedures may only be performed in a facility that has certified in writing that it will reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients and that it will not request any PPE from any public source (federal, state, or local) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The details of the order are outlined in [EO-GA 15](#).

On the advice of medical advisors, Abbott also announced that Texas schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This applies to public and private schools, as well as colleges and universities.

Abbott also directed state parks to reopen on Monday, April 20 with strict guidelines to reduce transmission of COVID-19 – including requiring visitors to wear face coverings, maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party, and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Noonan, TCC Director of Government Affairs at Noonan@texaschemistry.org or 512-646-6407.

