



MEMBER ALERT!

COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update

April 27, 2020

Governor Abbott Outlines “OPEN TEXAS” Plan

TODAY -- Governor Greg Abbott announced his “OPEN TEXAS” Report, outlining his plan for reopening the Texas economy. Under the plan, Governor Abbott explained how certain non-essential businesses would be able to reopen while minimizing the spread of the coronavirus.

Phase 1 of OPEN TEXAS will go into effect on Friday, May 1st allowing retail stores, restaurants and movie theaters to reopen with a maximum 25% occupancy capacity and social distancing practices continued. The 25% occupancy capacity supersedes all local orders. All licensed medical professionals (doctors, dentists, etc.) can reopen with few restrictions. Museums and libraries are also allowed to open, but interactive or hands-on exhibits must remain closed. Outdoor sports will be allowed to resume with no more than 4 participants and required social distancing practices.

Under Phase 1, barbershops, hair salons, bars, and gyms will remain closed. Governor Abbott emphasized that he realizes the demand for these businesses, but indicated that medical and health professionals do not feel these businesses can safely reopen at this time. Governor Abbott is hopeful that they may be able to open during Phase 2 of the OPEN TEXAS plan which will go into effect on May 18th.

Under **Phase 2**, additional Texas businesses and services will be allowed to reopen if Phase 1 proves successful at containing the spread of the coronavirus. Additionally, Phase 1 businesses will be able to expand to 50% occupancy capacity under Phase 2. Abbott also pointed out the Strike Force is working to identify safe ways to reopen summer camps, which are not currently authorized to reopen under Phase 1.

To read the OPEN TEXAS report, click on the following link:

[The Governor’s Report on OPEN TEXAS](#)

On April 17th, Governor Abbott appointed a **Strike Force to Open Texas**, a group that consists of notable statewide officials and private sector leaders. The Strike Force conducted extensive research to identify business needs and medical best practices for ensuring social distancing to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The Strike Force has made recommendations to Governor Abbott in the development of his OPEN TEXAS Report to safely and strategically restart and revitalize the state’s economy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Hector Rivero, TCC President at Rivero@texaschemistry.org or 512-750-6484.