

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

APRIL 27, 2020 UPDATE

- There were two more positive cases reported in Gatesville over the weekend bringing the City's total to 19 confirmed cases. The Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator is reporting 105 total cases in Coryell County (+2 from Friday) which includes 63 TDCJ offenders. From a regional perspective since last Friday, the Department of State Health Services is reporting 82 (+1) confirmed cases in McLennan County, 165 (+4) in Bell County, and 262 (+80) in Williamson County.
- In order to provide some information about Governor Abbott's press conference this afternoon, and specifically Executive Order GA-18, I am dispensing with the table of confirmed cases in this update. This afternoon, Governor Abbott issued GA-18 related to the expanded reopening of services – the E.O. is at: [https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18\\_expanded\\_reopening\\_of\\_services\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-18_expanded_reopening_of_services_COVID-19.pdf)
- GA-18 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. this Friday; it transmits the 64-page *Governor's Report to Open Texas* which can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following link: <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>
- We are still in the process of digesting everything in the report, but some of the key items that will be of interest to the residents (and business owners) of Gatesville are:
  - Retail establishments may open on Friday, but may only have an occupancy (including employees) of 25% of capacity – if a building has a capacity of 40, that means no more than a total of 10 people inside at any one time. Face coverings are strongly encouraged – but not mandatory.
  - Restaurants may open for dine-in service on Friday, but again the 25% occupancy rule applies. There are also several checklist items that restaurant managers will need to have in place before they open including tables set at least 6-feet apart; parties can be no larger than 6 people; there must be a hand sanitizing station for customers at the entrance; menus have to be disposable, one-time use only; nothing (condiments, silverware, glasses) on unoccupied tables; and condiments must be single serving only. I would ask that if you opt to dine in one of our local restaurants on Friday that you help the owner/manager and comply with the Governor's orders – these aren't just "suggestions."
  - There is a little more flexibility given towards holding in-person church services, but worshippers must maintain 6-feet separation from those who are not members of their household, and every other row must be left open/unoccupied. Specific guidance for churches can be found on the Department of State Health Services website at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/docs/opentx/ChurchesPlacesofWorship.pdf>
  - Golf and tennis are permitted effective this Friday – but the guidance is no more than four participants; I spoke with the Manager at the Gatesville Country Club this afternoon, and he understands what needs to be done.
  - There will be more nuanced information as we dig deeper into the Open Texas Report – and we will provide updates throughout this week leading up to Friday. The Governor indicated that this was Phase I. If there are no flare-ups over the next 3 weeks, the Governor will consider moving to Phase II on May 18<sup>th</sup> – where restaurants and retail could operate at 50% occupancy.
- Again, I wanted to encourage and thank those of you following the guidance and keeping yourself and others around you safe – all of us thank you for doing so.

Bill Parry

City Manager