

POOL REPORT 1: Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN - Nicole Cobler, *Austin American-Statesman*:

Gov. Greg Abbott entered a room outside of the State Operations Center at 1:13 p.m. He was joined by Dr. John Zerwas, a physician from Richmond who is on a team working to expand hospital capacity and procure needed medical supplies.

The room is surrounded by screens that read: "Texas Hospital Bed Capacity, June 16, 2020."

"We are here today to let Texans know about the abundant hospital capacity that exists to treat Texans who may test positive for COVID-19."

Abbott said fewer Texans test positive for COVID-19 than residents in any large states in the U.S. He added that Texas has one of the lowest death rates and few Texans who test positive have to go to the hospital in the first place.

Abbott says two counties, Jefferson and Pecos counties, had an "outsized influence" on the number of Texans testing positive for COVID-19. For example, a federal prison in Beaumont brought back a batch of positive tests for inmates "that all came in at once."

"I want you to know that this is the same type of analysis that we use on an ongoing basis as we look into each and every county across the entire state of Texas to figure out exactly what is going on," Abbott said.

Today's number of positive cases, 2,622, is a new high for Texas, which Abbott says is because of a large number of tests out of an assisted living center in Collin County. Hays County is another example of a large increase, Abbott said.

"It seems like these numbers were batched together and averaged out," he said.

One day after his comments on 20-somethings testing positive for COVID-19, Abbott reiterated that statement, saying there are multiple reports in certain counties "where a majority of the people who are testing positive in that county are under the age of 30."