

POOL REPORT 2: Austin American-Statesman

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

Abbott remarks continued:

"In addition to those testing positive, are those numbers that you've been seeing about an increase in the number of people who are hospitalized because of COVID-19," Abbott said.

Today's hospitalization number is 2,518, Abbott said, adding that Zerwas will break down those numbers further. "That's really a very small percentage of all the beds that are available."

Abbott says new medical strategies, treatments and additional PPE have better prepared Texas to respond to COVID-19: "We are better prepared to deal with COVID-19 today than we were in March and April."

The governor recommended that people stay home, which he says is especially true for those with an underlying health condition or who are 65 and older.

He reiterated that Texans should wear masks while out in public because asymptomatic people can spread the coronavirus.

"Businesses have learned safe strategies both for their employees as well as their customers to make sure that they're preventing the spread of COVID-19," he said.

Abbott says Texas doesn't have to choose between either returning jobs or protecting health care.

"We do have the tools and the strategies in place where we can achieve" jobs being maintained without jeopardizing public health.

Zerwas speaking now. More to come.