

POOL REPORT 4: Austin American-Statesman

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

Abbott wrapping up before taking questions: "Even though there are more people hospitalized, we still remain at the lowest threat level to our hospital capacity."

The governor says Amarillo is an example of how the state can deploy a number of strategies to decrease positive cases and hospitalizations in hotspot areas.

Asked about whether an in-person GOP state convention is still a good idea, Abbott said it's evaluated with the same methodology used for stadiums: "There is the ability to have people gather as long as safe protocols are used."

And Abbott confirmed that he recently spoke to college athletic directors about the best way to move forward with fans.

Abbott reiterated that masks are necessary in preventing the spread of the coronavirus, although local governments can't use their authority on those violating social distancing guidelines.

"Putting people in jail, however, is the wrong approach," Abbott said, adding that he believes Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins wants to do just that.

Clarification on Zerwas' title: He is the executive vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Texas System.

More to come on Q&A session.