

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated Sections: 05.27.2020

NEW ADDITIONS

REVISED

2.2.9A CAN I REFUSE SERVICE TO SOMEONE WITHOUT A FACE COVERING?

5.1 WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT'S MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION MEAN FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS? – deleted an obsolete paragraph – various groups are helping businesses and individuals with funding.

5.6.2B I AM A CUSTOMER. HOW DO I PURCHASE AND OBTAIN GOODS FROM A RETAIL STORE THAT HAS JUST RE-OPENED? - Added clarification on number of people in the space.

5.6.3 CAN I OPEN AN OUTDOOR MARKET or SIDEWALK SHOPPING? *(for the website)* AFTER this section, gave language to refer people to REOPENED BUSINESSES tab for next three sections.

REOPENED BUSINESSES – *(for the website)* can you check to make sure that the businesses are flush left so that they are easily seen

5.6.4 WHAT BUSINESSES HAVE REOPENED? - Paragraph rewritten for clarity, added link to Open Texas page.

5.6.4A REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 1 – *(for the website)* the first bullet point **RETAIL SERVICES IN STORES** section doesn't seem to have all of its text, including the header. Also added checklists.

Under **MALLS**, and under **GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS**, added checklists.

5.6.4C REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 18 – changes to **OFFICE-BASED WORKERS** and to **MANUFACTURERS**, added checklists

Section 5.6.6 **WHAT BUSINESSES ARE STILL CLOSED?** *(for the website)* it's hard to see this section – it seems to be a part of the wedding section. Can you leave a blank line above it?

5.8 WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE IN BASTROP COUNTY? – updated with generic information to include any restrictions in the state

6.3 CAN I BE EVICTED IF I CAN'T PAY MY RENT OR MORTGAGE? – updated information since moratorium has expired

8.4 IS IT OKAY TO TRAVEL? – changed to reflect current actions

9.1 ARE COURTS IN BASTROP COUNTY GOING TO BE IN SESSION? – updated language to match current documents

1.0 MAJOR INQUIRIES

1.1 WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION OR ASK QUESTIONS?

1.1.1 BASTROP COUNTY CORONAVIRUS: <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>

1.1.2 THE DASHBOARD - The “dashboard,” with current counts, is also on this page. To see more information, the map, and demographics, please click on the link directly underneath the dashboard.

Please note on the map that the large red dot between Bastrop and Elgin represents the number of positive cases in the unincorporated portions of Bastrop County, NOT the location of those cases. Dots are also shown in the cities of Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville, reflecting confirmed cases inside those cities. Confirmed cases by zip code have now been added to the Dashboard.

Information is received by the Health Authority from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and sent to be updated on the dashboard. Due to HIPAA laws, the people who post the information do not know any more information.

Any changes to information on the dashboard is at the request of the Health Authority.

(Always refer people to the Bastrop County Coronavirus page, shown above, for the dashboard – changes to the larger dashboard could make the arcgis.com link obsolete.)

1.1.3 BASTROP COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COVID-19 HOTLINE

Call 512-303-4300. The hotline is staffed by volunteers to answer general questions and is open Monday through Friday - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hotline is closed on weekends but your call will be returned if you leave a message.

1.1.4 WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

The answers compiled in Frequently Asked Questions is from various sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The White House, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Supreme Court, the Office of Governor Abbott, Bastrop County Health Authority, Bastrop County, the Office of Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, the City of Bastrop, the City of Elgin, the City of Smithville, Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, Elgin Chamber of Commerce, and Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce.

All information is meant to help Bastrop County citizens have a better understanding of COVID-19, precautions to take for health and safety, and how related regulations affect them.

1.2 HOW CAN I HELP?

1.2.1 TO STAFF THE PHONES for the Bastrop County Local Governments COVID-19 HOTLINE:

Direct Link: <https://www.bcltrt.org/volunteer-form>

1.2.2 FOR THOSE WITH MEDICAL SKILLS:

Direct Link:

https://bastropcountyconnects.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=509270

Or go to www.bastropcares.org.

- In right column, click on “Click Here To Get Connected!” button
- Click on “VOLUNTEER NOW” button.

- Click on “Bastrop County Emergency Medical Professional Volunteer Registration - CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)” and sign up.

1.2.3 FOR THOSE WANTING TO HELP DRIVE FOOD TO SENIORS AROUND THE COUNTY:

Direct Link: https://bastropcountyconnects.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=510731

Or go to www.bastropcares.org.

- In right column, click on “Click Here To Get Connected!” button
- Click on “VOLUNTEER NOW” button.
- Click on: “Bastrop County Senior Home Delivery - CORONAVIRUS COVID-19” and sign up.

1.3 WHAT IS COVID-19?

About COVID-19: visit <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>

To learn more, go online to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

1.4 WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

The COVID-19 coronavirus is formally known as SARS-CoV-2.

Coronavirus patients can experience a diversity of issues – from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms generally appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Patients may be most infectious in the days before they began showing symptoms, studies show.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated the list of possible symptoms to include the following:

- Fever (100 degrees or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills, repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

For more information, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

1.5 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

1.5.1 I THINK I HAVE COVID-19, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN A DOCTOR. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- Stay home when you are sick or think you are sick.
- Do not go to the store or out in public.
- Try to isolate yourself from your family members.
- Call for medical assistance and more instructions.
 - Call your health care provider's office in advance of a visit.

- Call the Ascension Medical Hotline at 1-833-978-0649. If you have symptoms that place you in the medium to high risk category, they will try to return your call within the hour. If you are a low risk caller, they will return your call within 24 hours.
- If you don't have insurance or have a doctor, call the CommUnityCare COVID-19 Hotline at 512-978-8775 for guidance from a medical professional. Hotline is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **If this is an emergency, such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face, or other severe symptoms, please call 9-1-1 immediately. If possible, notify the operator that you think you have COVID-19 and put on a face covering before medical help arrives.*

1.5.2 MY DOCTOR TOLD ME HE THINKS I HAVE COVID-19, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A TEST. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- Go to your residence and stay there. You are now under mandated self-isolation for a minimum of 14 days or until a medical doctor releases you.
- Everyone who lives in your household is also under a mandatory minimum 14-day self-isolation period as well.
- You and other members in your household are forbidden to go to work, school, daycare, social or religious gatherings, shopping or any other community function, until released by a Medical Doctor.

1.6 WHAT ARE BEST PRACTICES TO AVOID COVID-19?

The best way to protect yourself and your family is to take the following preventive actions to avoid exposure:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wear a face covering when out in public.
- See more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

1.7 HOW CAN I REACH THE BASTROP COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

For more information and official updates:

- Website: <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>
- Facebook
 - @BastropCountyOEM
 - <https://www.facebook.com/BastropCountyOEM/>
- Twitter
 - @BastropCntyOEM
 - <http://twitter.com/BastropCntyOEM>

1.8 HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SICK?

See Section 1.1 BASTROP COUNTY CORONAVIRUS PAGE and DASHBOARD

2.0 SLOWING DOWN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 (FLATTENING THE CURVE)

2.1 WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Social distancing means remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding gathering in groups larger than 10, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others.

2.2.1 WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING?

- Staying home, unless for work or essential errands such as grocery shopping, is also a way to practice social distancing.
- Using curbside services for groceries, and limiting the number of times and hours you go out in public are other examples of social distancing.
- Do not get into a vehicle with someone who is not from your household, nor allow any non-household member into your vehicle. Inside a vehicle is a small, enclosed space, and there isn't enough room for social distancing.
- Do not ride on the same golf cart unless it's with a member of your household.

With the reopening of businesses and activities, we want to avoid a spike in COVID-19 cases.

2.2.2 I'M OVER AGE 65, AND I'M CONCERNED ABOUT GOING OUT IN PUBLIC. WHAT DO I DO?

The Governor has released Special Guidance for Texas Over 65. People 65 years or older, especially people 65 years or older with medical issues like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or a weakened immune system, are at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. Every Texan is part of the solution. Strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines, as well as all recommendations in "Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas," April 27, 2020.

- Stay home if you can.
- Minimize face-to-face contact with others.
- Avoid young children.
- If someone is assisting you, you and your family members or caretaker should wear cloth face masks. Remember a family member or caretaker can give you the virus even if they don't appear to have symptoms.
- Try grocery or restaurant delivery, mail order prescriptions, and phone appointments with your doctor. **Call the hotline at 512-303-4300 if you need help with essentials.**
- If you must go out, wear a cloth face mask, and stay six feet away from others.
- Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, or eating utensils with others.
- If you have mild symptoms (difficulty breathing, or a rapidly worsening cough or fever), call your healthcare provider. If symptoms are severe, call 9-1-1.
- Check in regularly with neighbors, friends, and family by calling, texting, emailing, video chatting, or even writing letters.
- Walking, gardening, digital books, games, and online religious services are great ways to stay active and connected.

2.2 SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

Yes, we strongly encourage everyone to wear a face covering when in Bastrop County in the general public, in businesses, and when you can't maintain social distancing measures, following recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Gov. Abbott's "Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas."

Please note that a face covering is not a replacement for at least six feet of social distancing; it is an added safety measure when in public, such as in grocery, convenience and retail stores.

2.2.1 WHILE IN MY CAR?

No. However, we encourage the use of face coverings when social distancing cannot be properly maintained, such as at a drive thru or when talking to someone who is standing outside your car.

2.2.3 WHILE ON MY PRIVATE PROPERTY?

No, you do not need to wear a face covering.

2.2.4 WHAT IF I AM JOGGING OR BIKING OR WALKING WITH MY FAMILY IN A RURAL AREA?

If you are in an area where you can easily practice social distancing, you do not need a face cover. Please note that because you have no control over the actions of others, please have a face covering on hand to use if someone else gets near you or your family. This is a health and safety measure.

2.2.5 DO I HAVE TO WEAR A MASK AT A DOCTOR'S OFFICE?

Yes, Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 19 made it mandatory for patients and their physicians to wear masks at doctor's offices in the State of Texas.

2.2.6 WHAT TYPE OF FACE COVERING SHOULD I WEAR?

This is not a surgical mask or an N-95 respirator, which are to be used by medical providers and first responders.

Face coverings can be made with homemade items, please see link for more instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/>

2.2.7 HOW DO I REPORT SOMEONE NOT WEARING A MASK?

Please do not call 9-1-1. This is NOT an emergency, and is not mandated.

Do your part by wearing a "face covering", encourage others to do so, AND stay at least 6 feet apart from others. This is a health and safety measure, not a punishment.

2.2.8 CAN SOMEONE FINED OR JAILED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE?

There are no fines or penalties, and no one can be jailed. We ask you to wear a face covering to protect the health and lives of others.

2.2.9 WHAT CAN I DO AS A STORE OWNER?

2.2.9A CAN I REFUSE SERVICE TO SOMEONE WITHOUT A FACE COVERING?

Yes, you can refuse to serve someone who doesn't wear a "face covering" in your business.

Any owner of a private business **may require a face covering** of all who enter if they believe it is necessary to protect their staff and employees as well as other customers and patrons. This is similar to the "no shoes, no shirt, no service" principle. Of course, if you do so, you and your staff would also need to wear a face covering, and a "face covering required" sign must be posted prominently.

An article of clothing, currently worn as a shirt – with the front pulled up over the face – does not constitute a face covering.

2.2.9B I'VE SEEN SIGNS AT OTHER STORES SAYING "FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED." WHERE CAN I GET ONE?

Contact the hotline at 512-303-4300 or a local Chamber of Commerce in Bastrop, Elgin or Smithville for Face Coverings Required and Face Coverings Recommended signs. The Chambers are helping all businesses – members or not – with signs, and answering questions on best practices, financial information, and more.

2.2.9C DO MY CUSTOMERS HAVE TO WEAR MASKS?

Per Governor Abbott, in some businesses such as hair salons, barbershops and nail salons, and in healthcare settings, **face coverings are required** for both staff and customers.

Any owner of a private business **may require a face covering** of all who enter if they believe it is necessary to protect their staff and employees as well as other customers and patrons. This is similar to the "no shoes, no shirt, no service" principle. Of course, if you do so, you and your staff would also need to wear a face covering.

2.3 CAN MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE GATHER IF THEY ARE IN THE SAME FAMILY?

Yes. However, close contact with non-household members is discouraged – in other words, people who don't live at the same address. Gathering in crowds is also discouraged where you cannot maintain social distancing. Face coverings are also recommended.

Per the Governor's Report to Open Texas, following minimum health protocols in everyday life is vital in containing COVID-19 and reopening Texas. Please read the **CHECKLIST FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Individuals.pdf>

2.4 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HOUSEHOLD AND A FAMILY?

A household is a group of people who live in the same residence (same address). Family members may live at different addresses.

2.5 HOW DO I KNOW IF I WAS EXPOSED?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

2.6 WHERE DO I CALL TO REPORT AN INFECTIOUS PERSON?

There is currently no authority to report suspicion of infection to. Practice social distancing and avoid contacts with the individual you feel may be sick. If you begin to feel ill, please call your

primary physician or the Ascension hotline for screening. If you have a relationship with this person, suggest to them that they contact a medical professional.

2.7 CAN I GET COVID-19 FROM:

2.7.1 MY PETS?

There is no reason at this time to think that any animals, including pets, in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals, such as washing your hands and maintaining good hygiene.

However, according to the CDC, the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from people to animals, cats and dogs, in some situations. If there is a sick person in your household, someone else should take care of the pet, and the sick person should have no contact with the pet. Treat your pet as you would any other household member – do not let the pet interact with people or animals outside your household. More information is on the CDC website.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/pets.html>

2.7.2 MOSQUITOES OR TICKS?

To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes or ticks, according to the CDC. The main way that COVID-19 is spread is through person to person contact.

2.7.3 FREQUENTLY TOUCHED OBJECTS?

Studies done have been varied on how long COVID-19 stays on a surface. Guidelines are to wash your hands for 20 seconds, don't touch your face, and sanitize frequently touched surfaces. Go beyond just wiping down your counters. Think of your car keys, your car handle, your cell phone, doorknobs, your tv's remote control, and objects on your workstation like keyboard and mouse.

2.8 I'M SCARED. WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE A RESURGENCE OF ILLNESS?

1.8.1 GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S STRIKE FORCE TO OPEN TEXAS

Governor Abbott has issued Executive Orders on reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster. The Governor created the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas to study and make recommendations on safely and strategically restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the Lone Star State—work, school, entertainment, and culture.

2.8.2 GOVERNOR'S RIGHT TO CLOSE REOPENED SERVICES

The Governor has the right per Executive Order GA 18 to close Reopened Services (See Section 5.6 WHAT ARE "ESSENTIAL SERVICES" and "RE-OPENED BUSINESSES"?) in response to factors including an increase in the transmission of COVID-19 or in the amount of COVID-19-related hospitalizations or fatalities.

2.8.3 SURGE RESPONSE TEAMS

Surge Response Teams will serve nursing homes, prisons, packing plants, and other facilities that experience flare ups of COVID-19 by providing personal protective equipment, testing supplies, onsite staffing, and assessment assistance. These teams will also work with local officials to establish health and social distancing standards to contain these flare ups. Several Surge Response Teams have already been deployed to locations across the state. These teams are led by TDEM and HHSC and include representatives from the Texas Military Department, DSHS, the Texas Emergency Medical Task Force, and BCFS Health and Human Services.

2.9 WHAT ARE THE CDC GUIDELINES TO PREVENT GETTING SICK? WHEN DO I HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM?

2.9.1 In Governor Abbott's "Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas," all people must continue to follow critical health guidelines including the following:

- Stay home if you can.
- Wash hands often and for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, doorknobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Continue to practice 6 foot social distancing.
- Avoid crowds.
- Limit physical contact.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public.

These guidelines are published on the CDC website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/>

2.9.2 These guidelines shall be followed by every person in Texas, and are in place through May 19, 2020 per Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 21.

3.0 LOCAL IMPACTS

3.1 HOW MANY CONFIRMED CASES IN BASTROP COUNTY?

See Section 1.1 Bastrop County Coronavirus page and Dashboard

3.2 WHAT TOWN OR PART OF THE COUNTY IS THE AFFECTED PERSON FROM?

This information is only available to healthcare professionals, First Responders, and state and national medical reporting agencies. HIPAA Laws apply. It is posted on our Dashboard as it becomes available from the Texas Department of State Health Services. See Section 1.1 Bastrop County Coronavirus page and Dashboard. Select "more detail" for a chart showing cases by zip code.

3.3 WHERE HAS THE COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON BEEN LATELY? HOW CAN I KNOW IF I'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THEM?

With limited resources, the Texas Department of State Health Services may investigate the recent travel habits of the affected person and notify people who have been in contact with the person sick with COVID-19.

3.4 IS SELF-QUARANTINE REQUIRED FOR THOSE WHO TRAVELED FROM HIGH RISK AREAS?

Not any longer. In his Executive Order GA-24 on May 21, 2020, Governor Abbott terminated all travel quarantines from out-of-state locations listed under Executive Order GA-20 effective immediately.

Governor Abbott also terminated self-quarantines for those persons who traveled from one of the prior locations effective immediately. So even if you are in the middle of a 14-day self-quarantine after traveling from one of the prior restricted locations, your quarantine is now over. If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, please see Section 1.5 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

3.5 WHAT DOES "SELF-QUARANTINE" OR "SELF-ISOLATE" MEAN?

Do not go to work or school, and avoid all public places for 14 days from the onset of symptoms. See Section 1.5 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?

3.6 WHAT DOES COVID-19 “TRAVEL RELATED” MEAN?

The person most likely contracted COVID-19 through travel such as being in a high risk country, on a cruise ship, or in a high risk area in the United States.

3.7 WHAT IS “COMMUNITY SPREAD”?

Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

3.8 IS IT OKAY TO DONATE BLOOD?

YES, with precautions.

Donated blood is a lifesaving, essential part of caring for patients, and blood centers are open and in urgent need of donations. CDC encourages people who are well to continue to donate blood if they are able, even if they are practicing social distancing because of COVID-19.

CDC is supporting blood centers by providing recommendations that will keep donors and staff safe. Examples of these recommendations include spacing donor chairs 6 feet apart, thoroughly adhering to environmental cleaning practices, and encouraging donors to make donation appointments ahead of time.

3.9 CAN I ATTEND A FUNERAL?

Please contact the funeral home to find out how they are conducting services and if you can attend. See Section 5.16 ARE CHURCHES OPEN FOR SERVICES?

4.0 TESTING SITE IN BASTROP COUNTY

4.1 IS THERE A TESTING SITE IN BASTROP COUNTY?

Yes, there is a designated drive-thru site for taking specimens in Bastrop County. However, this is not an open-access testing site. You must have a referral from a healthcare provider to be tested there.

4.2 WHY CAN'T I JUST DRIVE UP AND GET SCREENED?

4.2.1 The CDC has recommended that only those with symptoms be tested. There are not enough test kits or personnel for those without symptoms to be tested.

This facility is closed to the general public. In order to be tested at this site, you must be referred by a Medical Healthcare Provider that follows the approved screening process for Bastrop County.

4.2.2 CAN I GET TESTED NEARBY WITHOUT AN ORDER?

Not in Bastrop County. The Texas Department of Health and Human Services has a list of drive-thru test sites listed throughout the state, which have various criteria for testing. Some of the screening locations are in nearby Travis County. Visit <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/testing.aspx> for more information.

4.2.3 MY DOCTOR SAID I NEEDED TO BE TESTED FOR COVID-19 BEFORE A MEDICAL PROCEDURE. CAN I GET THAT DONE AT THE BASTROP COUNTY TESTING SITE?

No. The Bastrop County site currently only tests people with doctor's order and who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. Please talk to your doctor about where you can get tested or see Section 4.2.2 CAN I GET TESTED NEARBY WITHOUT AN ORDER

4.2.4 ONE OF MY EMPLOYEES HAS COVID-19. CAN I GET ALL OF MY EMPLOYEES TESTED HERE?

No. Everyone tested at the site needs a doctor's referral. You will need to find a place that does testing without referrals or use a private firm.

4.2.5 MY EMPLOYER IS REQUIRING A TEST SO I CAN GO BACK TO WORK. CAN I GET IT HERE?

No. Everyone tested at the site needs a doctor's referral. You will need to find a place that does testing without referrals or use a private firm.

4.3 I'M FEEL SICK. DO I NEED TO GET TESTED NOW?

If you feel sick or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (See Section 1.4 WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19?), go home or stay home. Do not go out in public unless it is for pre-arranged medical care or emergency care.

Please call your Medical Healthcare Provider for a telephone screening and possible appointment. A Medical Healthcare Provider will determine, upon evaluation, if you need to be tested for COVID-19. If you do not have a Medical Healthcare Provider please call the Ascension COVID-19 Medical Hotline at 833-978-0649.

If you are experiencing life threatening symptoms, please call 911; or call ahead to an emergency room, in order for medical personnel to prepare for your arrival.

4.4 IS MY NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE, IF YOU ARE DOING TESTING HERE?

Lab tests are not being done at the Bastrop County site. Nasal or throat swabs are being collected, labelled, and sent to a lab in another county for testing. The Bastrop County COVID-19 site is for specimen collection only.

4.5 HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE MY TEST RESULTS?

Labs are working as quickly as possible. Some results may take up to a week.

4.6 WHAT IS PREVALENCE TESTING?

Prevalence testing is random sampling of people who do not appear to be sick. Some will be healthy, but some may harbor COVID-19 without showing symptoms, also known as "asymptomatic."

4.7 ON APRIL 27, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WOULD BE MORE TESTING. WHERE DO I GO TO GET TESTED?

We will announce new testing as it becomes available in our county. Currently, the testing site in Bastrop County accepts people with symptoms of COVID-19 through referrals from healthcare providers.

There are testing sites listed on the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) map, but please call first to find out the requirements at each location before going.

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/testing.aspx>

4.8 SPECIAL TESTING AROUND COUNTY

Results of special testing are made available to the extent of HIPAA laws and the Health Authority, including being added to any relevant counts. All participants tested are notified of their results via standard methods.

4.8.1 APRIL 23-24 RANDOM PREVALENCE TESTING AROUND COUNTY

On April 23-24, the Health Authority conducted a limited, random sampling of people around the county with a mobile lab to help determine the percentage of people who may have COVID-19 but who are not showing symptoms. These are swab tests to see if volunteers around the County currently have COVID-19. Appointments were not taken as there were random tests. All people in the testing will be notified of their results. Results are being tabulated and a report, without any personal identifiers, will be publicized. This testing will help in decision making.

4.8.2 MAY 5 TESTING IN ELGIN AND SMITHVILLE

On May 5, the cities of Elgin and Smithville hosted testing sites run by the Texas Military Department. These are swab tests to see if people currently have COVID-19. This is a collaborative initiative between the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Military Department, Emergency Medical Task Force, and the Hospital Preparedness Program Healthcare Coalitions, to test sites around the state. There is no cost for testing received at either of these sites, but people must have symptoms and register on May 4 at <https://txcovidtest.org/>. First responders need to call 512-883-2400 to register. If you register early or at a later date, you would be sent to another county for testing.

4.8.3 MAY 6 TESTING AT NURSING HOMES

Some nursing home residents and staff members were tested in Bastrop County with the family permissions.

5.0 PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER DECLARATION and ORDERS

5.1 WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT'S MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION MEAN FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS?

President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Texas and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

The President's action makes Federal funding available for Crisis Counseling for affected individuals in all areas in the State of Texas. Federal funding is also available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Texas impacted by COVID-19.

~~Bastrop County has not yet received specific information on how that affects us, our communities, or our businesses.~~

5.2 HAS THE STATE OF TEXAS DECLARED A PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER?

Yes. The Texas Department of State Health Services determined that, as of March 19th, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

5.3 WHAT ACTION HAS GOVERNOR ABBOTT TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER?

5.3.1 GOVERNOR ABBOTT'S WEBSITE: <https://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus>

5.3.2 PHASES TO REOPEN TEXAS: <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

- Every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- People over the age of 65, however, are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.
- Gives definition of Essential Services as those listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations and houses of worship.
- Gives definition of Reopened Services/Businesses – See Section 5.6 on Essential and Reopened Businesses. Please note that more services are reopened starting May 8, May 18, May 22, May 31, per Governor Abbott's May 18, 2020 press conference. See Section 5.6 WHAT ARE "ESSENTIAL SERVICES" and "RE-OPENED BUSINESSES"?
- The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- People shall not visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities or long-term care facilities.
- Schools shall remain closed to in-person classroom attendance by students and shall not recommence before the end of the 2019-20 school year. See Section 7.0 SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS for more information regarding schools.

5.3.3 TEXANS HELPING TEXANS: GOVERNOR'S REPORT TO REOPEN TEXAS - The document expands on Phase 1 to Reopen Texas and GA 18.

- Individual responsibilities
- Special Guidance for Texans over Age 65
- Long-term Care Mitigation Plan
- Testing actions
- DSHS Statewide Contact Tracing Program
- Steps to Open Businesses
- Minimum standard health protocols for individuals, customers, participants, employers, churches/places of worship and more. For links to checklist pdfs, see Section 5.23 WHERE CAN I FIND THE GOVERNOR'S CHECKLISTS ON REOPENING?

5.4 WHAT ACTION HAS COUNTY JUDGE PAPE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER IN BASTROP COUNTY?

See <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>

5.5 DOES THIS MEAN ALL BUSINESSES IN BASTROP COUNTY MUST SHUT DOWN?

None of these official Orders close all businesses. The Governor's order allows businesses considered Essential Services and Reopened Services/Business to be open, so long as precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

5.6 WHAT ARE "ESSENTIAL SERVICES" and "RE-OPENED BUSINESSES"?

5.6.1 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Essential Services are as defined in the US Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0. Government and judicial services are Essential Services. This document is available at: www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices

5.6.2 REOPENED BUSINESSES

Under Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 16, "Reopened Businesses" – retail services, which can be provided through pickup, delivery by mail, or to delivery to the customer's doorstep – may begin operating starting April 24, 2020.

For individuals, customers, businesses and organizations, the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas has created easy to follow checklists for health and safety so that we can continue to flatten the curve on COVID-19. Before going out, please click on the relevant links at Section 5.23 WHERE CAN I FIND THE GOVERNOR'S CHECKLIST ON REOPENING – THE MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS?

5.6.2A I AM AN EMPLOYEE OF A RETAIL BUSINESS RE-OPENING. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO KEEP MYSELF AND OUR CUSTOMERS SAFE?

- All employees must be trained on environmental cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- All employees must be screened before coming into the business for new or worsening cough; shortness of breath; sore throat; loss of taste or smell; feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit; or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Any employee who meets any of these criteria should be sent home.
- Upon entering the business, employees must wash or sanitize hands.
- All employees must wear face coverings.
- Employees must maintain at least 6 feet separation from one another.
- Employees must wash or sanitize their hands after each interaction with a customer, and whenever possible, must disinfect any item that came into contact with the customer.

Information from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

CHECKLIST FOR RETAILERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Retailers.pdf>

5.6.2B I AM A CUSTOMER. HOW DO I PURCHASE AND OBTAIN GOODS FROM A RETAIL STORE THAT HAS JUST RE-OPENED?

Starting May 1, in accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 18, all retail stores may open at 25% capacity for in-store shopping. **This percent does not include staff and contractors.**

However, pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep, is still encouraged. The customer should wash or sanitize hands before and after every transaction. *Information from Texas Department of State Health Services.*

Before going, please read CHECKLIST FOR RETAIL CUSTOMERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Retail-Customers.pdf>

5.6.2C HOW DO I SHOP IF I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE IN CROWDS?

You can continue to use the options stores set in place before in-store shopping was available. Those age 65 and older and those with underlying health conditions are encouraged to shop remotely. Call the store to see if they still follow the procedures below.

- **Retail to-go (curbside):**
 - All payments should be done over the phone or internet if possible, and contact should be minimized if remote payment is not available.
 - Purchased items should be delivered by the employee to the backseat or trunk of the customer's vehicle whenever possible to minimize physical contact with the customer.
- **Retail delivery to customer's doorstep:**
 - All payments over the phone or internet if possible, and contact should be minimized if remote payment is not available.
 - Purchased items should be delivered by an employee or third-party carrier and delivered to the customer's doorstep. The employee or third-party carrier may not enter the customer's house or business.
- **Retail delivery by mail:**
 - All payments over the phone or internet.
 - Purchased items should be delivered by mail without customer contact.

5.6.3 CAN I OPEN AN OUTDOOR MARKET or SIDEWALK SHOPPING?

No, you cannot. Outdoor markets, including tent shopping and sidewalk sales, are not included in the definition under "Re-Opened Businesses".

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*** The following sections are listed on this website under tab REOPENED BUSINESSES:

Section 5.6.4 **WHAT BUSINESSES HAVE REOPENED?**

Section 5.6.5 **CAN I GET MARRIED NOW?**

Section 5.6.6 **WHAT BUSINESSES ARE STILL CLOSED?**

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5.6.4 WHAT BUSINESSES HAVE REOPENED?

Businesses should read "Texans Helping Texans: The Governors Report to Open Texas" and follow the checklists therein to keep their customers and employees healthy. Go to the Governor's [Open Texas webpage](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas) for complete list of openings and checklists for individuals, customers before going out, businesses, churches, parks, bodies of water, etc.
<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

5.6.4A REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 1

Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 18, starting May, 1, 2020, opens the following Reopened Services:

- **RETAIL SERVICES IN STORES**

- See Section 5.6.2B I AM A CUSTOMER. HOW DO I PURCHASE AND OBTAIN GOODS FROM A RETAIL STORE THAT HAS JUST RE-OPENED?

Before going, please read **CHECKLIST FOR RETAIL CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Retail-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR RETAILERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Retailers.pdf>

- **DINE-IN RESTAURANTS**

- DINE INDOORS
 - On May 22, restaurants may operate at 50% capacity
 - Restaurants that have less than 51% of gross receipts from the sale of alcohol
 - Valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.
 - Social distancing must be maintained between tables.
 - Take-out, pickup and delivery are still encouraged rather than dining in to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- DINE OUTDOORS ONLY
 - The capacity limit does not apply to outdoor spaces at a restaurant. However, dining must be set up so that there is a six-foot distance between patrons at adjoining tables and social distancing must be followed in waiting areas.

- Check for open restaurants: <https://www.bastropcares.org/covid-19>

Before going, read over the **CHECKLIST FOR RESTAURANT CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Restaurant-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR RESTAURANTS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Restaurants.pdf>

- **MOVIE THEATERS**

- that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of any individual theater for any screening.

Before going, read over the **CHECKLIST FOR MOVIE THEATER CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Movie-Theater-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR MOVIE THEATERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checlist-Movie-Theaters.pdf>

- **SHOPPING MALLS – 25% capacity, excluding staff or contractors**
 - Play areas, and interactive displays and settings must remain closed.
 - Food courts are reopened at 25%.

Before going, please read **CHECKLIST FOR RETAIL CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Retail-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR RETAILERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Retailers.pdf>

- **MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES** – 25% capacity
 - Only if permitted by local governments
 - Any interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, remain closed.

Before going, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR ALL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY VISITORS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Museum-Library-Visitors.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Museums-Libraries.pdf>

- **INDIVIDUAL IN AN OFFICE** - Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.
- **GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS**, but only one person to a golf cart unless they are from the same household.

Before going golfing, please read **CHECKLIST FOR OUTDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPANTS**.

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Outdoor-Sports.pdf>

- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, as determined by the local government.

5.6.4B REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 8

On Friday, May 8, 2020, the following may reopen with restrictions and health protocol checklists below, per Governor Abbott's May 5, 2020 press conference:

- **COSMETOLOGY / HAIR SALONS, BARBERSHOPS, NAIL SALONS**
 - 1 customer per stylist
 - Customers can wait inside if 6 foot social distancing can be observed.
 - Both stylist and customer must wear a face covering
 - Operating stations must be six feet apart.
 - Appointments are recommended.

COSMETOLOGY / HAIR SALON

Before your appointment, read the **CHECKLIST FOR COSMETOLOGY / HAIR SALON CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Cosmetology-Hair-Salon-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR COSMETOLOGY / HAIR SALONS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Cosmetology-Hair-Salons.pdf>

BARBER SHOP

Before your appointment, read the **CHECK LIST FOR BARBER SHOP CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Barber-Shop-Customers.pdf>

CHECK LIST FOR BARBER SHOPS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Barber-Shops.pdf>

NAIL SALON

Before your appointment, read the **CHECKLIST FOR NAIL SALON CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Nail-Salon-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR NAIL SALONS / SHOPS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Nail-Salons.pdf>

● **TANNING SALONS**

- 6 feet of social distancing between operating work stations.

Before your appointment, read the **CHECKLIST FOR TANNING SALON CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Tanning-Salon-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR TANNING SALONS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Tanning-Salons.pdf>

● **SWIMMING POOLS**

- Indoor facilities may operate at up to 25% capacity to the total occupancy of the pool facility.
- Outdoor swimming pools may operate at up to 25% capacity of normal operating limits.
- Local public swimming pools may operate only if permitted by the local government.

CHECKLIST FOR PARKS/BEACHES/BODIES OF WATER

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Parks-Beaches-Bodies-of-Water.pdf>

5.6.4C REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 18

- **SERVICES PROVIDED BY OFFICE WORKERS** in offices that operate up to the greater of 10 individuals or 25 percent of the total office workforce. Social distancing must be maintained.

Before going back to work, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR OFFICE-BASED EMPLOYEES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Office-Based-Employees.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR OFFICE-BASED EMPLOYERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Office-Based-Employers.pdf>

- **MANUFACTURING SERVICES**, for facilities that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the facility. Please note that these are non-essential manufacturing services.

CHECKLIST FOR MANUFACTURERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Manufacturers.pdf>

- **GYMS AND EXERCISE FACILITIES AND CLASSES**

- 25% of total listed occupancy of the gym or exercise facility.
- Gym stations must be sanitized after each use.
- Items brought in by patrons, such as yoga mats, must be sanitized before and after use.
- Patrons must wear full-fingered gloves; fingerless gloves not allowed.
- Restrooms may open.
- Locker rooms, shower facilities must remain closed.
- Outdoor classes are not required to follow 25% occupancy but must maintain social distancing.

CHECKLIST FOR GYMS / EXERCISE FACILITY PATRONS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Gym-Exercise-Facility-Patrons.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR GYMS / EXERCISE FACILITIES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Gyms-Exercise-Facilities.pdf>

- **CHILD CARE CENTERS**

Governor Abbott announced the reopening of these centers during the May 18, 2020 press conference. This also includes Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA type programs.

The centers must follow federal and state health protocols for serving children in child care and more in the 13 page **CHECKLIST FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS.**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Child-Care-Centers.pdf>

Parents, please read before taking your child to daycare. **CHECKLIST FOR CHILD CARE FAMILIES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Child-Care-Families.pdf>

- **MASSAGE AND OTHER PERSONAL-CARE, AND BEAUTY SERVICES**

Governor Abbott announced the reopening of these services during the May 18, 2020 press conference.

- includes electrolysis, waxing, tattoo salons, piercing studios, and hair loss treatment and growth services
- Feet 6 of social distancing
- Because of close proximity of individuals, stringent compliance with Minimum Standard Health Protocols is strongly recommended.

Before seeking these services, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR MASSAGE AND OTHER PERSONAL-CARE, AND BEAUTY SERVICE CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Massage-Personal-Care-Beauty-Service-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR MASSAGE AND OTHER PERSONAL-CARE, AND BEAUTY SALONS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Massage-Personal-Care-Beauty-Services.pdf>

- **YOUTH CLUBS**

Governor Abbott announced the immediate reopening of these youth activities during a May 18, 2020 press conference.

NOTE: Youth camps and youth sports will not reopen until May 31. See Section 5.6.4E REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 31

- Youth clubs include the following: Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, TOP Teens, FFA, Girls, Inc., and other similar type youth clubs.
- Indoor meetings should not exceed more than 10 individuals.
- 6 feet of social distancing between individuals is maintained.
- Staggering meetings to comply with 10-individual limit is encouraged.
- Parents should monitor the health of their children, and not send a sick child to the club.

Parents and youth, before your meeting please read the **CHECKLIST FOR ALL YOUTH CLUB PARTICIPANTS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Club-Participants.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR ALL YOUTH CLUBS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Clubs.pdf>

5.6.4D REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 22

- **BARS or SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS**

Starting on May 22, bars and similar establishments may reopen for up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the establishment. For these purposes, bars and similar establishments are those with a permit from TABC that are not otherwise considered restaurants.

- Interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, interactive games, and video arcades, must remain closed.
- Patrons should not loiter around the bar or in commonly trafficked areas, and should remain seated.
- Bars should only provide service to seated customers.
- Parties to remain seated at least 6 feet from other parties.
- Activities that enable close human contact, such as dancing, are discouraged.
- No tables of more than 6 people.
- If serving food, follow guidelines for restaurant serving.
- If buffet, employees should serve food to the customers.

Before going to a bar, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR BAR PATRONS**
<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Bar-Patrons.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR BARS OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS
<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Bars.pdf>

- **BOWLING ALLEYS, BINGO HALLS, SIMULCASTING, SKATING RINKS**

Opening May 22, these amusements should create six feet of social distancing between bowling alley lanes, between customers playing bingo, and in any other activity.

Any interactive components or exhibits, such as child play areas, interactive games, and video arcades, must remain closed.

Individuals should follow health guidelines in reopening these interactive activities.

- Avoid being in a group of people larger than 10 individuals.
- Minimize contact with those individuals not in your household.
- Wear a face covering.
- Washing and sanitizes hands frequently.
- Avoid sharing utensils and other common objects.

Before going, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR BOWLING, BINGO, SIMULCASTING, SKATING CUSTOMERS**
<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Bowling-Bingo-Simulcasting-Skating-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR BOWLING ALLEYS, BINGO HALLS, SIMULCASTING, SKATING RINKS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Bowling-Alleys-Bingo-Halls-Simulcasting-Skating-Rinks.pdf>

- **RODEO / EQUESTRIAN EVENTS**

Starting May 22, these events may start per Governor Abbott in his May 18 press conference. Larger gatherings that include a rodeo or equestrian event, such as a county fair, are not authorized.

- Spectators
 - Indoors – no more than 25% occupancy
 - Outdoors – no more than 25% occupancy
- Six feet of separation between non-household members
- Must follow the Minimum Standard Health Protocols, per state checklist.

See more at **CHECKLIST FOR RODEO AND EQUESTRIAN EVENTS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Rodeo-Equestrian-Events.pdf>

- **ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, NATURAL CAVERNS, AND SIMILAR FACILITIES**

Starting May 22, these events may reopen, if also permitted by local government, per Governor Abbott in his May 18 press conference.

- 25% total occupancy or 25% normal operating limits.
- Interaction functions must stay closed, including child play areas, amusement and video game areas.
- Indoor areas of zoo, except for restrooms, must remain closed.
- Must follow the Minimum Standard Health Protocols, per state checklist.

Before going to the location, please read the following **CHECKLIST FOR ZOOS, AQUARIUM, NATURAL CAVERN VISITORS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Zoo-Aquarium-Natural-Cavern-Visitors.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, NATURAL CAVERNS, AND SIMILAR FACILITIES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Zoos-Aquariums-Natural-Caverns.pdf>

- **OUTDOOR MOTORSPORTS**

Starting May 22, outdoor motorsports may be operating per statement of Governor Abbott.

- 25% of normal operating limits.
- Social distancing must be maintained – 2 empty seats between patrons unless from same household or attending together, then two empty seats between parties.
- Alternate rows empty.
- Encouraged to use remote ticketing.

CHECKLIST FOR OUTDOOR MOTORSPORTS EVENTS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Outdoor-Motorsports.pdf>

5.6.4E REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 26

- **TEXAS DRIVING SCHOOLS**

Governor Abbott reopened Driving Schools up to 25% capacity for classroom instruction with social distancing except when receiving in-car instruction or if participating in a DPS road test.

Before going, please read **CHECKLIST FOR TEXAS DRIVING SCHOOLS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Driving-Schools.pdf>

5.6.4F REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 29

- **WATERPARKS**

Per Governor Abbott, waterparks may open up to 25% of their capacity on indoor and outdoor activities. Waterpark operators must close any components of the waterpark that has interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, and video game areas.

- No more than 10 people per party.
- Maintain social distance between parties.
- If unable to maintain social distance, please wear a face covering except when in the water. Do not wear a wet face covering.

Before going to a waterpark, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR WATERPARK VISITORS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Waterpark-Visitors.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR WATERPARK OPERATORS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Waterpark-Operators.pdf>

5.6.4G REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 31

- **YOUTH SPORTS**

Governor Abbott announced the reopening of these youth activities during a May 18, 2020 press conference. Practices may begin May 31 without spectators other than one parent or guardian. Games or similar competitions may begin June 15 with spectators maintaining 6 feet of social distancing from individuals not in the spectator's group.

- Parents should monitor the health of their children, and not send a sick child to practice or a game.
- All attendees including participants, should follow the Minimum Standard Health Protocols including social distancing, wearing a face covering, carry hand sanitizer.
- Parents/guardians should also avoid being in a group of larger than 10.

Before the first practice, please read **CHECKLIST FOR YOUTH SPORTS FAMILIES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Sports-Families.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR YOUTH SPORTS OPERATORS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Youth-Sports-Operators.pdf>

- **DAY YOUTH CAMPS**

Governor Abbott announced the May 31 reopening of these youth activities during a May 18, 2020 press conference. Please be aware of health factors, and do not send a child to camp if they are sick. State health protocols may be updated based on guidance from the CDC and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Please be aware of health factors, and do not send a child to camp if they are sick.
- After camp, the child should minimize contact with anyone older than 65 or those with underlying health conditions for 14 days.
- State health protocols may be updated based on guidance from the CDC and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Before sending your child to a youth camp, please read **CHECKLIST FOR DAY YOUTH CAMP FAMILIES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Day-Youth-Camp-Families.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR DAY YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Day-Youth-Camp-Operators.pdf>

- **OVERNIGHT YOUTH CAMPS**

Governor Abbott announced the May 31 reopening of these youth activities during a May 18, 2020 press conference.

- Please be aware of health factors, and do not send a child to camp if they are sick.
- After camp, the child should minimize contact with anyone older than 65 or those with underlying health conditions for 14 days.
- State health protocols may be updated based on guidance from the CDC and/or the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Before sending your child to camp, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR RESIDENT/OVERNIGHT YOUTH CAMP FAMILIES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Overnight-Youth-Camp-Families.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR RESIDENT/OVERNIGHT YOUTH CAMP OPERATORS AND STAFF

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Overnight-Youth-Camp-Operators.pdf>

- **PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES**

Professionals sports leagues which have submitted a plan to the Texas Department of State Health Services and are approved may begin play.

- Spectators allowed at 25% on outdoor venues.
- No spectators allowed at indoor venues.
- All employees, players, and contractors must be screened for symptoms. See checklist for complete list of regulations.

CHECKLIST FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LEAGUES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Professional-Sports-Leagues.pdf>

- **ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORTS**

On May 31, adult recreational sports may begin holding practices without spectators.

On June 15, games and similar competition may begin, with or without spectators.

Before going to see the sporting event, please read **CHECKLIST FOR ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORT PARTICIPANTS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Adult-Recreation-Sport-Participants.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR ADULT RECREATIONAL SPORTS OPERATORS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Adult-Recreational-Sports-Operators.pdf>

5.6.5 CAN I GET MARRIED NOW? Yes, you can. Congratulations!

5.6.5A WEDDING VENUES AND SERVICES REQUIRED TO CONDUCT WEDDINGS

- Indoor weddings other than at a church, congregation or house of worship, the facility may operate at up to 25% of total listed occupancy of the facility
- If held indoors at a Church, Congregation or House of Worship, follow guidelines for those facilities. See Section 5.1 ARE CHURCHES OPEN FOR SERVICES?

CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING ATTENDEES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Wedding-Attendees.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING VENUES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Wedding-Venues.pdf>

5.6.5B WEDDING RECEPTION SERVICES

- 25% occupancy of the facility
- Occupancy limits do not apply to the outdoor areas of a wedding or reception.

CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION ATTENDEES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Wedding-Reception-Attendees.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING RECEPTION VENUES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Wedding-Reception-Venues.pdf>

5.6.6 WHAT BUSINESSES ARE STILL CLOSED?

However, these Services are still closed, per Executive Order GA 18:

- Bars – Reopening May 22. See Section 5.6.4D REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 22
- Bowling alleys - Reopening May 22. See Section 5.6.4D REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 22
- Interactive amusement venues such as video arcades, amusement parks, water parks or splash pads.
- Sexually oriented businesses.
- Interactive activities at libraries and museums.

5.7 WHAT HEALTH MEASURES DO BUSINESSES NEED TO TAKE?

All businesses open to the public in Texas are required to follow Governor Abbott’s minimum health standard protocols. See Section **5.23 WHERE CAN I FIND THE GOVERNOR’S CHECKLIST ON REOPENING – THE MINIMUM HEALTH PROTOCOLS?**

- Daily monitoring of the health of each employee
- General sanitation
- Social Distancing measures that keep customers 6 feet apart
- Designate an employee on each shift to active monitor and enforce these protocols
- Keep records of these actions, which must be available to the Local Health Authority upon request
- Businesses should read “Texans Helping Texans: The Governors Report to Open Texas” and follow guidelines therein to keep their customers and employees healthy.

5.8 WHY ARE THESE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE IN BASTROP COUNTY?

These restrictions on the movement of people and promotion of health measures such as social distancing and wearing face coverings are meant to strengthen and safeguard our communities by curbing the spread of the virus. These coming weeks are critical in the fight against COVID-19. As Texans, we must act responsibly to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

5.9 DOES ANY OFFICIAL ORDER REQUIRE THAT WE CLOSE ALL CITY AND COUNTY OPERATIONS?

No. The Governor's Order refers to Essential Services as defined in the US Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0. Government and judicial services are Essential Services. This document is available at: www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices

In Bastrop County, governmental and court offices generally closed to public access, but continue to help people via email and phone, or in person if necessary.

5.10 ARE RESTAURANTS OPEN FOR DINE-IN?

Yes, with restrictions. Please see Section 5.6.4A REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 1

Restaurants throughout Texas may still prepare food for non-dine-in business, such as drive-thru, pick-up, call-in orders, and delivery options. These non-dine-in options are encouraged to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Click on the link for open restaurants in your area: <https://www.bastropcares.org/covid-19>

5.11 ARE BARS OPEN FOR DINE-IN?

No. Per Governor's Order, bars are closed to customers. However, bars can still deliver or carry out food with beverages. Customers may not dine-in.

Bars are reopening May 22. See Section 5.6.4D REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 22

5.12 WILL GROCERY STORES SHUT DOWN?

Food and food services are Essential Services. We are told that our local grocery stores are here to serve our communities and will not be closing. Their warehouses are full, and deliveries are arriving regularly.

- Please remember to practice social distancing, and we encourage you to wear a face covering
- When possible, send only one person from your family to purchase your weekly groceries.
- It is imperative we remember to be kind, only take what you need, and leave some for your neighbors.

5.12.1 DO I NEED TO BUY BOTTLED WATER?

Water provided by the Cities of Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville, and Aqua Water Supply meet or exceed stringent requirements from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is safe to drink. The water from your tap is safe to drink.

5.13 WHEN WILL THE TRANSFER STATIONS OPEN?

Bastrop County Transfer Station, 600 Coolwater Dr., Bastrop is not yet open. Other transfer stations around the county are privately owned; we do not control their operating hours.

5.15 ARE DAYCARES OPEN?

Yes. All daycares are reopened May 18 per Governor Abbott in his May 18 press conference. These include YMCA and Boys & Girls Club type care. See Section 5.6.4C REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 18

5.15.1 DAYCARE FACILITY GUIDELINES

Please follow the guidelines set forth in the checklists under Child Care Centers under 5.6.4C REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 18

5.15.2 FACE COVERINGS AT DAYCARES

After further review of the CDC's guidance specifically addressing childcare and child daycare, Bastrop County Judge sees no recommendation for face coverings on children in these programs. Therefore, Bastrop County COVID19 Order #1A does NOT require face coverings for children in daycare or childcare. Teachers, administrators, directors, parents and guardians of children in such programs should review the CDC details on daycares and preschools in the link below, and follow the recommendations.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

5.16 ARE CHURCHES OPEN FOR SERVICES?

Yes.

5.16.1 RIGHTS UNDER U.S. CONSTITUTION AND TEXAS CONSTITUTION

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I of the Texas Constitution protect the right of Texans to worship and freely exercise their religion according to the dictates of their own consciences. In addition, the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act ("RFRA") provides additional protections to faith communities, and government must ensure that it complies with RFRA when it acts, even during a disaster. Thus, when state or local governments issue orders prohibiting people from providing or obtaining certain services, they must ensure that these orders do not violate these constitutional and statutory rights.

5.16.2 ALTERNATE WAYS OF WORSHIPPING REMOTELY

Under Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 14, churches are considered Essential Services and can meet in person, though it is encouraged to hold remote services to keep your congregation healthy. Some churches are looking at alternate ways to hold services, such as on Facebook Live or with drive-up services in a parking lot using the car radio. Check with your church to see in what creative ways they are holding services to keep people safe.

5.16.3 GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW IF IN PERSON

If you attend a house of worship, each household must sit at least six feet apart *on all sides* from other households, and people must wear a face covering.

Other guidelines to follow include:

- Instruct sick employees, volunteers, and guests to stay home;
- Practice social distancing by maintaining appropriate distance between people, that means no hugging non-household members;
- Maintain good hygiene by washing your hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, using your elbow to cover coughs, and not touching your face;
- Implement environmental cleanliness and sanitization practices; and

- Clean and disinfect work areas frequently.

Before going, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR CHURCH/WORSHIP ATTENDEES**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Church-Worship-Attendees.pdf>

Houses of worship, like providers of other essential services, are to follow additional guidance from the White House and CDC whenever possible.

When conducting services, houses of worship may consider implementing the following practices:

- Encourage all attendees who are 65 and above to stay home and watch the services online, or provide a “senior service” exclusively for attendees 65 and above to attend in person.
- Ask all attendees who have an underlying at-risk health condition to stay home and watch the services online.
- Equip ushers and greeters with gloves and masks.
- Consider keeping child care closed, unless the house of worship can comply with CDC guidelines for child care facilities.
- Ensure all attendees sanitize their hands and put on a mask before entering the building.
- Ensure attendees sit with their family unit, use social distancing between each unit, and, if necessary, add more service times to facilitate distancing.
- Clergy should dismiss attendees by family unit, maintaining social distancing.
- Staff should sanitize seats and frequently touched surfaces between services.
- Consider refraining from passing collection plates and instead provide a central collection box in the building or encourage online giving.
- Consider how the sacraments can be administered without attendees having to touch the same surfaces and objects.

CHECKLIST FOR CHURCHES/PLACES OF WORSHIP

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Churches-Places-of-Worship.pdf>

5.16.4 THESE GUIDELINES DO NOT VIOLATE THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF HOUSES OF WORSHIP.

Under the extraordinary circumstances in which we temporarily live, these guidelines provide that houses of worship may remain open. The guidelines make only recommendations to houses of worship. They do not violate the religious liberty of houses of worship because the government has a compelling interest in recommending this guidance (stopping contagion) and the guidance is the least restrictive means of serving that compelling interest (allowing houses of worship to stay open for ministry, but suggesting ways that help slow the spread of COVID-19).

5.17 WHAT DO I DO IF MY CAR REGISTRATION IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE?

Effective March 19, 2020 and continued until further notice, the Bastrop County Tax Office has closed its lobby to all customers. The Bastrop County Tax Office employees are still working on your behalf and are available by the following means:

- Drive-Thru available in Bastrop, Smithville, and Elgin offices
- [Online Vehicle registrations](#)
- [Online tax payments.](#)

- Mail all tax and vehicle transactions - PO Box 579, Bastrop, TX 78602
- Drop boxes available at all locations
- Email: taxoffice@co.bastrop.tx.us
- Phone: 512-581-7161

On March 16, 2020, Governor Abbott also waived certain rules relating to vehicle registration, titling, and parking placards for persons with disabilities. These suspensions allow Texans to avoid penalties for failure to timely title or register a vehicle, or renew a parking placard.

5.18 CAN I GET MY HAIR OR NAILS DONE?

Yes, starting on May 8, 2020 with some restrictions. See Section 5.6.4B REOPENED SERVICES ON MAY 8

Before going, please read the **CHECKLIST FOR NAIL SALON CUSTOMERS**

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Nail-Salon-Customers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR NAIL SALONS / SHOPS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Nail-Salons.pdf>

5.19 SHOULD I BE WORKING FROM HOME?

Yes, if feasible, working from home is encouraged. Please talk to your owner or manager.

5.20 CAN I FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT IF I QUIT BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF GETTING THE VIRUS?

No. Unemployment benefits are only for those who have been laid off or fired from their jobs.

However, the Governor's Executive Order does make exceptions for people who refuse rehire based on specific reason which are reviewed on a case to case basis. See Texas Workforce Commission:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/texas-workforce-commission-issues-guidance-unemployment-claimants>

5.21 I FEEL SICK BUT MY DOCTOR DOESN'T THINK I NEED TO BE TESTED. MY BOSS WANTS A NOTE OR I'LL BE FIRED. WHAT DO I DO?

You can call the Ascension COVID-19 hotline to be evaluated.

Your employer may not require a doctor's note for your sick absence. However, because you are symptomatic, the Judge's Order mandates that you self-quarantine yourself for 14-days or until you are released by a medical doctor.

Your entire household must also self-quarantine for 14 days. You and other members in your household are forbidden to go to work, school, daycare, social or religious gatherings, shopping or any other community function, until released by a Medical Doctor.

5.22 CAN I GET NEW TIRES ON MY CAR OR GET OTHER MAINTENANCE DONE?

If a business is open, you may buy their products/services but many are taking appointments rather than walk-ins to maintain social distancing guidelines. Please call ahead to see if they are taking customers and when you should go.

5.23 WHERE CAN I FIND THE GOVERNOR'S CHECKLIST ON REOPENING – THE MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS?

In Governor Abbott's "Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas," there are several checklists provided to assist individuals, businesses, and churches with the minimum standard health protocols. Entire list of PDF documents is at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

Individuals are encouraged to read any document relevant to their upcoming outing before heading out the door.

Businesses are encouraged to post the relevant checklists for themselves and their customers in an easy to read location, and to do more than the minimum if their situation calls for more rigorous safety measures.

The entire report, "Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas," is posted on the OEM's page under RECOVERY: <https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus>

5.23A INDIVIDUALS

CHECKLIST FOR INDIVIDUALS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Individuals.pdf>

SPECIAL GUIDANCE FOR TEXANS OVER 65

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Special-Guidance-For-Texans-Over-65.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR OFFICE-BASED EMPLOYEES (Starting May 18)

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Office-Based-Employees.pdf>

5.23B BUSINESSES

CHECKLIST FOR ALL EMPLOYERS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Employers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR SINGLE PERSON OFFICES

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Single-Person-Offices.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR MANUFACTURERS (starting May 18)

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Manufacturers.pdf>

CHECKLIST FOR OFFICE-BASED EMPLOYERS (starting May 18)

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Office-Based-Employers.pdf>

5.24 CAN I THROW A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MY SON?

Yes, however keeping the event small, social distancing of 6 feet even between children, hand washing and face coverings are recommended if people not in the same household are in attendance.

- Do not let the child blow out candles on a cake – airborne droplets are the easiest way COVID-19 is spread.
- Do not have a buffet of food or utensils set out.

- Have one person wearing gloves serve each person all food and drink.
- Do not let children use playground equipment since it cannot be sanitized between children playing on it.
- Those age 65 and older and those with underlying health conditions are advised to not attend.

Since it is difficult to keep excited children separated, hosting a virtual birthday party with his friends, with only in-person attendance for those in your household, would be better to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 23 signed May 18, it states: "In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain Covered Services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household."

6.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSISTANCE - UTILITIES / RENT / BILLS / FOOD AND MORE.

6.1 IS THERE HELP FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES?

For specific business questions or to find out ways businesses are being helped, please call the local Chambers of Commerce:

- Bastrop Chamber of Commerce
 - 512-303-0558
 - Info@bastropchamber.com
- Elgin Chamber of Commerce
 - 512-285-4515
 - info@elgintxchamber.com
- Smithville Chamber of Commerce
 - 512-237-2313
 - april.daniels@smithvilletx.org

6.2 ARE THERE ANY PLACES THAT CAN ASSIST WITH RENT AND UTILITIES?

Bastrop County Cares is updating their resource list daily at www.bastropcares.org

NOTICE: The Texas Public Utility Commission voted Thursday, March 26, 2020 to ban utilities from cutting off power and water services to Texans who have lost jobs and income during the COVID-19 crisis for at least the next six months. Contact your utility company for instructions on a payment plan.

6.3 CAN I BE EVICTED IF I CAN'T PAY MY RENT OR MORTGAGE?

• RENTERS

Landowners can start eviction proceedings on renters for nonpayment of rent since the Texas Supreme Court moratorium has expired.

However, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act included a 120-day moratorium on eviction filings on renters in homes covered by federally backed mortgages, and a landlord would still need to give a 30-day notice before residents must vacate the property, effectively stopping an eviction until Aug. 23. Renters can check to see if their

address is included at the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

<https://nlihc.org/federal-moratoriums>

- **PROPERTY OWNERS**

Those concerned about their mortgages should contact their lender.

6.4 WHAT ABOUT THE FEDERAL STIMULUS CHECKS? WHEN WILL I GET MY \$1,200 CHECK?

Information about the Economic Impact Payments is at

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>

6.5 WHERE CAN I GET HELP FOR FOOD?

6.5.1 For a list of food services, including mobile services, provided by charitable organizations in Bastrop County, to go: <https://www.bastropcares.org/charitable-food>

Volunteers are standing by. We do not want anyone going hungry.

6.5.2 Senior Food Assistance program

- Age 65 and older
- Call 512-303-4300 to sign up
- You will need to provide your name, address and phone number

6.5.3 HEB-FAVOR program in Bastrop and Elgin areas

- Age 60 and older
- Can place orders for same-day delivery.
- Within 8 miles of HEB store
- Seniors can order in the Favor App, online or via phone.
- For full details, visit <https://favordelivery.com/>

6.5.4 HEB Curbside for Seniors – Volunteer Pickup and Delivery

- Age 65 and older
- Seniors will forward the confirmation email generated by HEB to curbsidebastrop@gmail.com (including their delivery address, contact phone # and name on the order).
- Volunteers will pick up your HEB Curbside order and deliver to your front porch
- County-wide service
- Call 512-303-4300 to sign up.

6.6 I AM SO STRESSED OUT ABOUT EVERYTHING. WHAT DO I DO?

There are several numbers you can call, and one you can text, to discuss whatever is bothering you. The website for Bastrop County Cares, which has quite a few local resources, is also listed.

- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services 24-hour Crisis Hotline
 - 1-800-841-1255
- Family Crisis Center
 - For those experiencing the following:
 - stress, emotional challenges or anxiety due to the current crisis
 - stalking, sexual violence, or dating/domestic violence
 - 833-986-1919
- U.S. Crisis Textline
 - For those experiencing STRESS or ANXIETY
 - Text TX to 741741

- U.S. Disaster 24-hour Distress Helpline
 - Emotional distress due to disasters
 - 1-800-985-5990
- Visit Bastrop County Cares website
 - www.bastropcares.org

7.0 SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS

7.1 WHEN WILL SCHOOLS REOPEN?

Governor Abbott announced through several executive orders that all Texas public schools, including those in Bastrop County (Bastrop ISD, Elgin ISD, McDade ISD and Smithville ISD) are closed to in-person classroom attendance by students for the 2019-20 school year. This includes all public and private schools, and institutions of higher learning. Online classes may continue. Please check with your school regarding updates and graduation instructions.

1. Bastrop ISD <https://www.bisdtx.org/Domain/3868>
2. Elgin ISD <https://www.elginisd.net/>
3. McDade ISD <https://www.mcdadeisd.com/>
4. Smithville ISD <https://www.smithvilleisd.org/>

7.2 SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS FOR ALL THOSE AGE 18 AND YOUNGER

School districts are providing curbside-pickup breakfast and lunch in their area each weekday for their children (age 18 and younger), regardless if the child attends the school. Children must be present to pick up their meal.

- Bastrop ISD:
 - Breakfast and lunch, 7:30 a.m. to noon
 - Pickup at one of 8 locations.
 - <https://www.bisdtx.org/Page/7374>
- Elgin ISD
 - Starting Monday, APRIL 20, meal delivery via bus will be discontinued. Meals – breakfast and lunch – for the ENTIRE WEEK, will be picked up on MONDAYS ONLY between 11 a.m. and noon at the elementary schools. This policy is to limit exposure to staff, students and families.
 - <https://www.elginisd.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=86&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=5444&PageID=1>
- McDade ISD
 - Breakfast and lunch, 8 - 11:30 a.m.
 - Drive by McDade High School and stay in your car to pick up meals. If your child rides a bus their meals will be delivered to your home.
 - https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/1081/school_breakfast_and_lunchdocxflyer.pdf
- Smithville ISD

- Breakfast and Lunch Meal Packages will now be available for pick-up on **MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS ONLY!**

- Monday: meal package includes 2 days of breakfast and lunch
- Wednesday: meal package includes 3 days of breakfast and lunch

RURAL LOCATIONS:

- Pickup Time Noon to 1 p.m. (or until we run out)
 - Site 1: String Prairie Community Center, 204 Community Center Road, Rosanky, Texas
 - Site 2: Entrance of Indian Lake, Corner of Indian Drive & FM 153
 - Site 3: Lake Thunderbird Community Center, FM 2104
 - Site 4: Young School House Bible Church Parking Lot, Young School House Road & 115 Easley Road
 - Site 5: Cottle town Road, Corner of Cottle town Road & Corna Long Trail Road

IN TOWN SITES:

- Pickup time remains 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
 - Brown Primary (front circle)
 - Smithville Elementary (behind Cafeteria on Bishop St.)
- <https://www.smithvilleisd.org/apps/news/article/1194113>

7.3 CAN CLASS OF 2020 SENIORS HAVE A GRADUATION CEREMONY?

7.3A STATE-ALLOWED CEREMONIES

Yes, Governor Abbott's Strike Force to Open Texas has issued four ways to hold graduation ceremonies for Class of 2020 seniors.

1. Completely virtual ceremonies that take place entirely online, with the use of videoconference or other technologies.
2. Hybrid ceremonies, which consist of a compilation of videos of students being recognized in person as they celebrate graduation in small groups.
3. Vehicle ceremonies, in which students and their families wait in their cars while other graduates are recognized one at time with their families alongside them.
4. Outdoor in-person ceremonies, which are currently permitted for counties as follows:
 - a) Between May 15 and May 31, an outdoor ceremony may take place in a rural county that has an attestation as described in the Governor's Report to Open Texas that remains in effect 7 days prior to the ceremony.
 - b) An outdoor ceremony may take place in any Texas county on or after June 1.

Full details of the TEA's graduation ceremony guidance can be found on the TEA website at https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/graduation_ceremonies_5.5.2020_vf.pdf

7.3B GRADUATION CEREMONIES

- Bastrop High School
 - <https://www.bisdtx.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=8&ModuleInstanceID=7243&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=15133&PageID=9>
 - Friday, June 5
 - BISD Memorial Stadium, 755 TX-21, Cedar Creek
 - Traditional ceremony also livestreamed

- Cedar Creek High School
<https://www.bisdtx.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=9&ModuleInstanceID=7239&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=15135&PageID=11>
 - Saturday, June 6
 - BISD Memorial Stadium, 755 TX-21, Cedar Creek
 - Traditional ceremony also livestreamed
- Colorado River Collegiate Academy
<https://www.bisdtx.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=10&ModuleInstanceID=7233&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=15134&PageID=13>
 - Saturday, June 6
 - BISD Memorial Stadium, 755 TX-21, Cedar Creek
 - Traditional ceremony also livestreamed
- Elgin High School and Phoenix High School combined ceremony
<https://www.elginisd.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=86&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=5500&PageID=1>
 - Friday, June 5
 - Wildcat Stadium, 14000 County Line Rd, Elgin
 - Maximum of 2 attendees per graduate
 - Traditional ceremony also livestreamed
 - See other requirements on school website
- McDade High School – no information
- Smithville High School
https://www.smithvilleisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1707420&type=d&pREC_ID=1931706
 - Friday, May 29
 - Tiger Stadium, 285 TX-95, Smithville
 - Maximum of 4 attendees per graduate
 - Traditional ceremony also livestreamed
 - See other requirements on school website

7.4 IS THERE GOING TO BE SUMMER SCHOOL?

This depends on your school district. Please check with your school.

The Texas Education Agency has created guidelines for in-class instruction AND virtual instruction during Summer School starting June 1. SEE DOCUMENT ONLINE.

https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/TEA-Summer-Program-Operational-Considerations_5-18-2020.pdf

8.0 TRAVEL AND LEISURE

Please be sure your children and families practice social distancing and other healthy habits. Remember, it's best to stay home to limit exposure to others.

CHECKLIST FOR PARKS/BEACHES/BODIES OF WATER

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Parks-Beaches-Bodies-of-Water.pdf>

8.1 ARE PARKS, RIVERS AND LAKES OPEN IN BASTROP COUNTY?

Some parks are open. See below.

- 8.1.1 For parks that are open, Governor Abbott has placed maximum group number to not exceed household members or up to five people. Social distancing standards apply. People must wear a face covering. Please note that Rivers, Lakes and Beaches are under the same minimum standards as Parks.
- 8.1.2 STATE PARKS – BASTROP STATE PARK AND BUESCHER STATE PARK
 - Guests, including annual pass holders, must purchase day passes and overnight camping reservations in advance BEFORE by calling 512-389-8900 or at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/>
 - Visitors may make overnight camping reservations at parks for dates between June 1 and Sept. 7.
 - Visitors must wear face coverings and bring hand sanitizer.
 - Maintain a distance of 6 feet from non-family members.
 - Not gather or camp in groups of more than five, unless same household.
- 8.1.3 BASTROP COUNTY PARKS
 - Stoney Point, Cedar Creek, and the Nature Park on the Colorado River are open to the public.
 - Playground and park improvements are still closed.
- 8.1.4 CITY OF BASTROP PARKS

The City of Bastrop is opening up certain parks as follows:

 - Hike & Bike Trails: pedestrians & bikers
 - Fisherman's Park Boat Ramp
 - Bob Bryant Park Boat Ramp
 - Playgrounds, restrooms, and the Bark Park are NOT being reopened.
 - The use of face coverings and gloves are highly encouraged.
- 8.1.5 CITY OF ELGIN PARKS
 - All parks in Elgin are open except for sports courts and the recreation center which are still closed.
 - The parks department asks that people stay off playground equipment, wear face coverings, maintain proper social distancing, and not gather in groups.
- 8.1.6 CITY OF SMITHVILLE PARKS
 - All city parks and outdoor facilities will reopen at noon on Friday, May 15. The city requests social distancing and no large gatherings.
 - The Veteran's Memorial Park splash pad will reopen on May 15.
 - The Indoor Recreation Center will remain closed.
- 8.1.7 LCRA PARKS IN BASTROP COUNTY
 - Lake Bastrop North Shore has reopened for DAY USE ONLY from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with no camping or overnight stays allowed. Visitors must pay entrance registration online ahead of time, and must wear face coverings, are limited to no more than 5 people in a group, and people must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from people not in their group.
 - The remainder of LCRA parks in Bastrop County – McKinney Roughs Nature Park and Lake Bastrop South Shore – remain closed.

8.2 CAN I STILL WALK MY DOG OR DO OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES?

Yes. The state and the county's orders allow visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID- 19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. Please note that Bark Parks follow the park closures of their city. We suggest that you carry a face covering in case you find yourself around other people.

8.3 IS THERE A CURFEW IN BASTROP COUNTY?

No, there is not a statewide or countywide curfew. A city – Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville – might have imposed a curfew for other reasons. You would need to check on their websites or call their city halls to see if they have a curfew.

8.4 IS IT OKAY TO TRAVEL?

8.4.1 The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is discouraging non-essential travel.

8.4.2 Governor Abbott encourages people to stay home as much as possible when not working or seeking services of essential or reopened businesses. He does advocate social distancing of six feet, wearing face coverings and washing hands as ways to keep healthy and keep Texas opening.

- More and more businesses are being reopened by Governor Abbott's Strike Force to Open Texas. See Section 5.6.2 REOPENED BUSINESSES
- Some parks have reopened also. See Section 8.1 ARE PARKS OPEN IN BASTROP COUNTY?

8.4.3 All governor's orders requiring travel restrictions and travel-related quarantining are void per Executive Order GA 24. See Section 3.4 IS SELF-QUARANTINE REQUIRED FOR THOSE WHO FLEW FROM HIGH RISK AREAS?"

8.4.4 If you choose to travel between cities and counties in Texas, states or countries, please check on the restrictions placed on those locations along your route and at your destination, including any stay-at-home orders, quarantine requirements and the like. If you have traveled through or to a high risk area, you may be required to quarantine when you get back to Texas.

8.5 WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE AT A GAS PUMP?

- Wear gloves (kitchen, gardening, ranching, etc.) or use a plastic bag while pumping gas. Please leave the disposable gloves for our First Responders and Nurses. They must have them to keep us safe.
- Wipe down gas pump handle and payment keypad with a disinfectant wipe.
- Sanitize your hands and vehicle door handle.
- Pay by debit or credit card rather than cash.

8.5 WHAT GROUP OUTDOOR SPORTS CAN I ENJOY?

On May 1, 2020, people will be able to play any sport that is four persons or less and where people can maintain a social distance. Tennis and golf are examples of allowed sports. Only one person per golf cart unless it's people from the same household.

CHECKLIST FOR OUTDOOR SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Outdoor-Sports.pdf>

8.5.1 CAN WE PLAY BASKETBALL AT THE LOCAL COURT?

Not at this time. Contact sports are not allowed per Governor Abbott, nor any outdoor sporting activity with more than a total of four people. You would also need to check

with the cities of Bastrop, Elgin or Smithville, or Bastrop County to see if their park facilities are open for other uses.

9.0 COURTS IN BASTROP COUNTY

9.1 ARE COURTS IN BASTROP COUNTY GOING TO BE IN SESSION?

All Jury Trials for the 423rd District Court for weeks beginning March 23, April 20, May 18 and June 15, are cancelled and will be rescheduled. Criminal cases set for April 15 and May 4 will also be rescheduled.

~~Courts will not conduct non-essential proceedings in person.~~

All hearings and trials conducted by the 423rd District County will be according to the COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN for the Bastrop County Judiciary

<https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/upload/page/0087/docs/operatingplanapproval05262020.pdf> and the SECOND AMENDED COURT PROCEEDINGS PER TEXAS SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS FIRST EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER.

<https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/upload/page/0087/423rdsecondamendedcovid19.pdf>

Please read both.

Everyone MUST have some type of mask or facial covering when entering the courtroom with the 423rd District Court is in session. If you do not have one, a covering will be provided.

Zoom and telephonic appearances must be approved by the Court in advance.

For hearings that do not require parties to be present, please contact the Court to arrange the time for the hearing.

9.2 WHAT ABOUT CHILD CUSTODY?

9.2.1 FAMILY LAW POSSESSION ORDERS

All possession orders shall continue to be subject to the applicable, previously published school calendar. *(21st and 335th Judicial District Court, State of Texas, Bastrop, Burleson, Lee and Washington Counties, March 20, 2020)*

For purposes of determining a person's right to possession of and access to a child under a court-ordered possession schedule, the existing trial court order shall control in all instances. Possession of and access to a child shall not be affected by any shelter-in-place order or other order restricting movement issued by a governmental entity. Order expires May 8, 2020. *(Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 20-9050, Seventh Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster)*

9.2.2 STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENT-CHILD VISITATION IN ALL CHILD PROTECTION CASES IN BASTROP COUNTY

All previously ordered parent-child visitation scheduled to take place through May 31, 2020 is HEREBY ORDERED SUSPENDED in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect all parties. Any party may file a written request for face to face visitation with full details including time, place, and manner for a requested visitation. The Court may decide the issue of requested visitation by hearing or submission, at its discretion.

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is HEREBY ORDERED to make arrangements for telephonic, Skype, or Facetime, or Zoom communications in place of in-person visitation through May 31, 2020. - *Judge Benton Eskew, County Court at Law*

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