



Governor Abbott's Proactive Response to the Coronavirus Threat

From before COVID-19 was first detected in Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has leveraged state, federal and local resources as well as private-sector support to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and to protect the health and safety of Texans across the state.

A high-level snapshot of actions taken by Governor Abbott; not inclusive of all briefings, hearings, proclamations, calls, actions or related events in Texas.

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MOBILIZING STATE RESOURCES

- On January 27, Governor Abbott activates the State Medical Operations Center and all state emergency response agencies to implement existing statewide preparedness and response plans.
- At the Governor's direction, the Texas Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response and the Texas Emergency Management Council begin regular meetings.
- At the Governor's direction, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) begins daily calls with public health authorities and providers.
- Governor Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton issue a joint statement on price gouging and announce a consumer hotline.
- On March 13, Governor Abbott declares a State of Disaster for all Texas counties due to the imminent threat posed, authorizing the use of all available and necessary state resources to assist Texas communities.
- Governor Abbott directs all state agencies to enact telework policies to ensure continuing service.
- Governor Abbott activates the Texas National Guard and deploys three brigades to assist health professionals and emergency responders on the front line.
- Governor Abbott announces the Texas Military Department and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working to identify and equip medical facilities if additional hospital capacity is needed.
- Governor Abbott provides a region-by-region update on medical and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies acquired by the Supply Chain Strike Force and distributed across Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces that Texas National Guard members are helping to staff a 24-hour operation to produce 2 million facemasks a week for distribution in Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces an executive order on April 17 establishing the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, including a Medical Advisory Board to guide the State's decisions on reopening Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces the Texas National Guard will be mobilizing more than 1,200 personnel as part of mobile testing teams in various parts of the state.

- Governor Abbott announces Surge Response Teams are deployed across the state to provide personal protective equipment, testing supplies, onsite staffing and assessment assistance to nursing homes, prisons, packing plants and other facilities to contain COVID-19 flare-ups.
- Governor Abbott directs the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and DSHS and to test all Texas nursing home residents and staff.
- Governor Abbott and Texas National Guard launch a disinfection mission for nursing facilities.
- At Governor Abbott’s direction, Surge Response Teams were in 60 communities across Texas over Memorial Day weekend to tackle COVID-19 clusters.
- Governor Abbott announces TDEM is coordinating with local officials across the state to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved and minority communities disproportionately impacted by the virus.
- At Governor Abbott’s direction, state agencies continue to reinforce minimum health protocols messaging on social channels and to promote the interactive map showing testing sites across the state.
- Governor Abbott visits TDEM’s warehouse in San Antonio and updates on the State’s distribution of PPE to Texas school districts for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Governor Abbott announces that the Houston Astros and TDEM have teamed up to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston.
- Governor Abbott mobilizes the Texas Military Department (TMD) in response to Tropical Storms Marco and Laura. TMD has trained for rescue operations in a COVID-19 environment and has strategically placed PPE with aviation assets around Texas.

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LEVERAGING FEDERAL RESOURCES

- On January 30, Governor Abbott joins U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar, federal health officials, Cabinet members and governors by phone for the first federal update on the coronavirus.
- In addition to speaking with President Trump and Vice President Pence, and ongoing calls with White House officials and Cabinet members, Governor Abbott joins regular calls with the vice president, federal agencies and the nation’s governors.
- Governor Abbott requests the state’s allocation of medical and pharmaceutical assets from the Strategic National Stockpile for distribution.
- Governor Abbott requests a statewide emergency designation for small business disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- Governor Abbott requests a presidential declaration of a major disaster.
- At Governor Abbott’s direction, \$19.5 million from the state’s initial \$36.9 million allotment of emergency congressional funding is distributed to 43 local health departments, with the remaining funds reserved for statewide efforts and to serve areas not covered by a local health department.
- Governor Abbott requests permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Governor Abbott requests interest-free Title XII loan funds to pay unemployment claims and also requests accelerated release of funds from the federal Unemployment Trust Fund.
- Governor Abbott submits a waiver asking for flexibility in administering Medicaid to expand care.
- Governor Abbott requests a waiver from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide financial housing assistance to Texans enduring economic hardships related to COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott continues to regularly consult by phone with the President, VP and White House health officials and federal agency administrators.
- Governor Abbott announces that SNAP food benefits may be used for online food purchases.
- Governor Abbott announces nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response.
- Governor Abbott announces up to \$11.3 million in HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance from HUD to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces TDEM has applied for nearly \$70 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding to support Texas' network of 21 food banks and shore up supplies for those in need.

- Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance, House Appropriations Committee Chairs announce \$5.06 billion in federal funding for local jurisdictions.
- Governor Abbott announces HHSC has received over \$1 billion in pandemic food benefits (P-EBT) from USDA; P-EBT can be used in the same way as SNAP food benefits to pay for groceries.
- Governor Abbott announces HHSC has received more than \$3 million in federal funding to provide shelter and services to survivors of family and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$177 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of June with funding from the USDA.
- Governor Abbott announces that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community-Based Testing Sites across Texas while surging resources to Dallas and Houston.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$9 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to implement infection control projects to protect residents and staff from the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$2.67 billion in federal funding has been approved for Texas hospitals caring for people receiving Medicaid, a \$1.07 billion increase from the previous fiscal year.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$182 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of July with funding from the USDA.
- Governor Abbott announces the HHS will provide free COVID-19 testing in Edinburg as part of the federal government's surge testing efforts in hot spots.
- Governor Abbott announces the state will invest \$57M in federal CARES Act funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs and keep more college and university students enrolled.
- Governor Abbott announces that additional federal resources have been activated and are being sent to the Houston region to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHS has extended federal support of Community-Based Testing Sites in Dallas and Houston through July 31, 2020.
- Governor Abbott announces that the Department of Defense (DOD) has activated medical teams from the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that his Public Safety Office will provide \$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties throughout the COVID-19 response.
- Governor Abbott announces that the DOD will surge resources to Rio Grande Valley hospitals to help combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, Speaker Bonnen and Senate Finance and House Appropriations Chairs allocate \$200 million in CARES Act funding to the Texas Education Agency for the purchase of eLearning devices and home internet solutions to enable remote learning.
- Governor Abbott announces that the DOD has sent five U.S. Navy teams to four locations in South and Southwest Texas to help combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that the State will allocate an additional \$118 million in federal funding to support higher education in Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC has received federal authority to extend certifications by six months for SNAP recipients whose benefits are up for renewal in July and August.
- The Office of the Governor announces that DOD has deployed an 85-person U.S. Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force to Corpus Christi and Victoria to help combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that the McAllen Convention Center will be converted into a health care facility to help meet the region's hospital capacity needs, and that DOD has deployed two 85-person U.S. Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces to Harlingen and Edinburg.
- Governor Abbott announce that the President has extended federal funding through the end of 2020 for the Texas National Guard's mission to help combat COVID-19 in communities across the state.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHS has established four temporary, federally funded COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County, now extended through August 29.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce that \$1.1 billion in Quality Incentive Payment Program funds have been approved to support Texas nursing facilities providing care for individuals receiving Medicaid.
- Governor Abbott announces that TWC has applied for additional unemployment benefit funding that will provide an additional \$300 per week in benefits for qualifying Texans.
- Governor Abbott announces the federal government has approved nearly \$1.4 billion in initial funds made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.

- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$188 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of September.

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WORKING WITH LOCAL LEADERS

- In January at the Governor's direction, DSHS begins daily calls with local public health authorities around the state and with San Antonio officials in relation to the repatriated Americans housed at JBSA-Lackland, as well as regular briefing calls with elected officials and local leaders around the state.
- DSHS, TDEM, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and all state agencies begin daily outreach to communities.
- Governor Abbott regularly briefs Texas legislators, mayors, county judges and other local elected officials as well as the Texas congressional delegation by teleconference on the State's strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure communities are prepared to respond to any confirmed cases in their area.
- At the Governor's direction, TEA issues guidance to K-12 public and open enrollment schools.
- Governor Abbott continues to recognize local business leaders who are adapting and innovating to help meet community needs.
- Governor Abbott announces Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will provide a free online training series to help local officials understand, acquire and administer federal CARES Act assistance.
- Governor Abbott continues to regularly consult and update by teleconference Texas legislators, mayors, county judges and other local elected officials as well as the Texas congressional delegation on the State's ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott, TEA and Dallas ISD announce the launch of Operation Connectivity to provide internet connectivity to students statewide.
- Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committee Chairs announce \$5.06 billion in federal funding for local jurisdictions.
- Governor Abbott announces TDEM is coordinating with local officials across the state to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved and minority communities disproportionately impacted by the virus.
- Governor Abbott expands the ability of mayors and county judges to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of over 100 people.
- Governor Abbott issues a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over 10 people to help contain the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds virtual meetings with mayors, county judges, emergency managers, hospital executives, state legislators and other local officials from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to discuss the unified efforts to combat COVID-19 in these communities.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference on his visit to the Coastal Bend region to survey Hurricane Hanna damage and discuss the ongoing local/state/federal partnership to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference on his visit to the RGV to survey Hurricane Hanna damage and discuss the ongoing local/state/federal partnership to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds virtual meetings with mayors, county judges, emergency managers, hospital executives, state legislators and other local officials in Laredo and Eagle Pass to discuss ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott visits the McAllen Convention Center for the opening of the temporary health care facility, which will help increase the RGV's hospital capacity.
- Governor Abbott travels to Beaumont and Victoria to meet with local leaders and state representatives on the community's ongoing response to COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott travels to Lubbock and El Paso to meet with local leaders and state representatives on the community's ongoing response to COVID-19.

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KEEPING TEXANS INFORMED

- In January at the Governor's direction, DSHS launches a coronavirus information/resources page online and continues to broadly promote preventative hygiene measures; social posts are shared/amplified by other state agencies.
- Beginning in February, Governor Abbott hosts ongoing press conferences, joined by DSHS and TDEM.
- Governor Abbott conducts almost daily media interviews with local and regional broadcast stations.
- Through ongoing social campaigns amplified by all state agencies, and televised public service announcements, Governor Abbott continually urges Texans to take preventative measures and to visit dshs.texas.gov for more information.
- Governor Abbott hosts a televised town hall to answer Texans' questions.
- Governor Abbott invites Texans to volunteer supplies, equipment and medical services by going to the state's portal: texas.gov
- First Lady Cecilia Abbott reminds Texans by video to check on older, isolated family members and neighbors who may be in need of food and medicine.
- Governor Abbott releases a video message to all Texans as his executive order goes into effect requiring all Texans to stay home unless they are participating in an essential service or activity.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference detailing the progress that Texas has made in slowing the spread, including county-by-county reporting.
- Governor Abbott continues to conduct regular press conferences and local/regional broadcast media interviews to update on the State's response.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference on April 17 to announce the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas; the State's reopening strategies will be guided by a Medical Advisory Board and with the advice of a Special Advisory Counsel of business leaders representing the state's regions and industries.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference to update on the State's response; announces nearly 500,000 job openings listed on WorkInTexas.com.
- Governor Abbott announces an online COVID-19 test collection map to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.
- On April 27, Governor Abbott announces Phase One of the State's ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19, and publishes online a report and checklists for download for individuals, employers, employees, customers and others.
- On May 5, Governor Abbott announces expanded business openings, new guidance on graduation ceremonies, the deployment of Surge Response Teams and the publication of updated Open Texas checklists online for businesses/services now open, for openings effective May and for openings effective May 18.
- Governor Abbott releases a statement and provides details on increased cases in Amarillo.
- Governor Abbott releases a public service announcement (PSA) entitled "Be A Good Neighbor. Be A Texan."
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference in Amarillo; discusses the state's ongoing collaboration with local and federal leaders to address hot spots in the Amarillo area; and outlines data on hospitalizations, testing, fatalities and positivity rates that demonstrate the success of the surge response teams.
- The Office of the Governor and George Strait release a PSA "Write This Down, Take A Little Note." encouraging Texans to practice good hygiene, wear a facemask and stay six feet from others in public.
- The Office of the Governor and Baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan release a PSA "Don't Be A Knucklehead" to encourage all Texans to follow effective health protocols.
- The Office of the Governor and Dallas Cowboys Linebacker Jaylon Smith release a PSA entitled "Wear A Mask On and Off The Field."
- Governor Abbott updates on the abundant capacity at Texas hospitals during a televised press conference and reminds Texans to continue to do their part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott provides an update on Texas' COVID-19 response at a press conference and discusses steps taken to mitigate the spread of the virus—including increasing enforcement of health and safety regulations, rapidly increasing testing in hot spots and working with hospitals to ensure capacity.
- The Office of the Governor and UT Southwestern Medical Center release a Spanish-language PSA on how Texans can protect themselves and others from COVID-19.

- The Office of the Governor and University of Texas Head Football Coach Tom Herman release a PSA titled "The Power Of Teamwork," urging Texans to work together as a team to stop COVID-19.
- The Office of the Governor and Major League Baseball Hall-Of-Famer Iván "Pudge" Rodríguez issue a PSA on the importance of wearing a mask to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- On July 2, Governor Abbott releases a video message to coincide with Executive Order 29, encouraging Texans to do their part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep their communities safe.
- The Office of the Governor and Francisco Cigarroa, MD, of UT Health San Antonio release a Spanish-language PSA urging Texans to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- The Office of the Governor and Guadalupe Zamora, MD, of Zamora Medical Center release an English-Spanish PSA urging communities to work together to protect vulnerable Texans from COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference on his visit to the Coastal Bend region to survey Hurricane Hanna damage and discuss the ongoing local/state/federal partnership to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference on his visit to the RGV to survey Hurricane Hanna damage and discuss the ongoing local/state/federal partnership to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott holds a roundtable and press conference at UT Southwestern Medical Center on Texas' approach to flu season as the state and the country continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott travels to meet with local leaders and legislators in Beaumont and holds a press conference to update on the state's continued efforts to mitigate the virus.
- Governor Abbott travels to meet with local leaders and legislators in Beaumont and Victoria and holds press conferences to update on the state's continued efforts to mitigate the virus.
- Governor Abbott travels to meet with local leaders and legislators in Lubbock and El Paso and holds press conferences to update on the state's continued efforts to mitigate the virus.
- As of September 4, Governor Abbott has conducted 33 press conferences and approximately 446 broadcast interviews related to the State's COVID-19 response, commencing six days prior to the first confirmed case in Texas.

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MITIGATING THE SPREAD IN TEXAS COMMUNITIES

- In January at the Governor's direction, DSHS begins regular posting of preventative hygiene steps; these social posts are amplified by state agencies.
- At the Governor's direction, capacity is added at the Texas Center for Infectious Disease to accept mildly symptomatic to asymptomatic patients from the JBSA-Lackland repatriate cohorts and relieve anticipated pressure on San Antonio hospitals.
- Governor Abbott sends a letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demanding improved release protocols for individuals under federal quarantine at Lackland.
- On March 5, Governor Abbott announces the launch of statewide testing capabilities.
- Governor Abbott is briefed by the Texas Military Department on preventative health measures for Texas National Guard personnel.
- The Governor restricts non-critical visits to state-supported nursing homes, hospitals, prisons and other facilities.
- Governor Abbott holds a press conference at the San Antonio Emergency Operations Center to update on the state's actions and the San Antonio drive-through coronavirus testing site. He announces other major cities are working to implement drive-through testing sites to be run and managed at the local level.
- Governor Abbott allows virtual and telephonic open meetings to ensure government transparency.
- Governor Abbott announces Texas will receive an initial 15,000 testing kits from FEMA, in addition to testing capabilities already announced.
- Testing by public health authorities and private providers continue to increase weekly, following prescribed protocols for eligibility.
- Governor Abbott postpones scheduled district and primary runoff elections in conjunction with the state's ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott issues executive orders prohibiting social gatherings of 10 or more, dine-in restaurants and bars, and non-critical visits to nursing homes, and temporarily closing schools.

- Governor Abbott mandates a 14-day self-quarantine for air travelers from NY, NJ, CT and New Orleans. That executive order is expanded to air travelers from additional hotspot locations, California, Louisiana, Washington, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit and Miami, and to travel by car from Louisiana.
- Governor Abbott prohibits the release of individuals in county and municipal jail custody who are deemed a danger to society.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols for the entire state of Texas to minimize non-essential gatherings and in-person contact.
- Governor Abbott provides a region-by-region update on medical and PPE supplies acquired by the Supply Chain Strike Force and distributed across Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces a 24-hour operation, staffed in part by Texas National Guard members, will produce 2 million facemasks per week for distribution in Texas.
- Governor Abbott regularly updates the public at press conferences on the distribution of PPE supplies to communities across Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces an executive order closing schools through the academic year to mitigate the spread, though teachers may return for in-classroom video instruction.
- Governor Abbott announces the Texas National Guard will be mobilizing more than 1,200 personnel as part of mobile testing teams in various parts of the state.
- Governor Abbott announces an online COVID-19 test collection map to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.
- Governor Abbott announces Surge Response Teams are deployed across the state to provide personal protective equipment, testing supplies, onsite staffing and assessment assistance to nursing homes, prisons, packing plants and other facilities to contain COVID-19 flare-ups.
- Governor Abbott directs TDEM, DSHS and HHSC to test all nursing home residents and staff in Texas.
- Governor Abbott and Texas National Guard launch disinfection mission for nursing facilities.
- Governor Abbott and TDEM announce that local fire departments in Texas are partnering with local public health authorities to provide testing in nursing homes throughout the state.
- Governor Abbott and CVS Health announce 44 new COVID-19 drive-thru test sites in Texas, with plans to have over 80 drive-thru testing locations in Texas by the end of May.
- Governor Abbott directs HHSC to expand COVID-19 testing to all patients, residents and staff at the 23 state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals and living centers throughout Texas.
- Governor Abbott suspends in-person visitations in all county and municipal jails in Texas. This restriction does not apply to visitation by an attorney meeting with a client or a religious leader or member of the clergy. This executive order adds another layer of defense to contain COVID-19 hot spots, prevent community spread and protect staff and inmates.
- At Governor Abbott's direction, Surge Response Teams were in 60 communities across Texas over Memorial Day weekend to tackle COVID-19 clusters.
- Governor Abbott announces TDEM is coordinating with local officials across the state to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved and minority communities disproportionately impacted by the virus.
- Governor Abbott directs HHSC to enact emergency rules that provide strict health and safety standards and procedures for childcare centers in Texas.
- On June 25, Governor Abbott announces a pause in further phases to open Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order limiting certain businesses and services to contain the spread of COVID-19. The targeted, measured directives in the executive order are based on links between certain types of businesses and services and the recent rise in positive cases throughout the state.
- Governor Abbott announces that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community-Based Testing Sites across Texas while surging resources to Dallas and Houston.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$9 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to implement infection control projects to protect residents and staff from the spread of COVID-19.
- On July 2, Governor Abbott issues Executive Order 29 requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions.
- Governor Abbott issues a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over 10 people.

- Governor Abbott announces HHS will provide free COVID-19 testing in Edinburg as part of the federal government's surge testing efforts in hot spots.
- Governor Abbott announces that Omnicare, a CVS Health company, is partnering with the State of Texas to provide COVID-19 point-of-care testing for assisted living facilities and nursing homes.
- Governor Abbott announces that additional federal resources have been activated and are being sent to the Houston region to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHS has extended federal support of Community-Based Testing Sites in Dallas and Houston through July 31, 2020.
- Governor Abbott announces that the Department of Defense (DOD) has activated medical teams from the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that the DOD will surge resources to Rio Grande Valley hospitals to help combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that the DOD has sent five U.S. Navy teams to four locations in South and Southwest Texas to help combat COVID-19.
- The Office of the Governor announces that DOD has deployed an 85-person U.S. Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force to Corpus Christi and Victoria to help combat COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that the McAllen Convention Center will be converted into a health care facility to help meet the region's hospital capacity needs, and that DOD has deployed two 85-person U.S. Army Reserve Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces to Harlingen and Edinburg.
- Governor Abbott announces that the Houston Astros and TDEM have teamed up to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston.
- Governor Abbott announce that HHS has established four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County. Each location will be able to process 1,250 tests per day. Now extended through August 29.

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EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- On March 10, three days prior to declaring a State of Disaster, Governor Abbott asks health insurance providers to waive costs associated with the testing and telemedicine visits.
- On March 13, Governor Abbott declares a State of Disaster and directs state agencies to take any action necessary to support telemedicine.
- Governor Abbott fast tracks licensing for out-of-state medical professionals.
- Governor Abbott holds a video call with hospitals to discuss capacity.
- Governor Abbott activates the Texas National Guard to assist medical professionals and emergency responders on the front line.
- Governor Abbott waives certain regulations to expand patient access to telemedicine.
- At the Governor's direction, DSHS declares a Public Health Disaster, triggering important tools for public health authorities.
- Governor Abbott waives regulations to allow phone consultations by pharmacists and to expand nursing workforce.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order increasing hospital capacity, announces a Supply Chain Strike Force and increases hospital room occupancy.
- Governor Abbott directs hospitals to submit daily reports on bed capacity and all providers to update daily on COVID-19 tests.
- Governor Abbott announces an initial \$83 million of medical supplies ordered by the new Supply Chain Strike Force, along with donations of supplies from Texas medical professionals.
- Governor Abbott invites Texans to volunteer supplies, equipment and medical services by going to the state's portal: [texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov)
- Governor Abbott extends license renewal periods for nurses, extends license renewal periods for pharmacists and expedites reactivation for advanced practice registered nurses.
- Governor Abbott receives his requested federal approval to automatically renew Medicaid and SNAP food assistance until further notice, and to suspend the requirement that renewing recipients and new applicants be interviewed.
- Governor Abbott announces the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas is being equipped as a back-up hospital facility should it be needed.

- Governor Abbott waives certain regulations to expand EMS and emergency responder workforce.
- Because of proactive measures and waivers issued by Governor Abbott, hospital bed availability in Texas has increased by 140 percent since March 18.
- Governor Abbott provides a region-by-region update on medical and PPE supplies acquired by the Supply Chain Strike Force and distributed across Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces a 24-hour operation staffed in part by Texas National Guard members will produce 2 million facemasks per week for distribution in Texas.
- Governor Abbott continues to issue temporary waivers to rapidly expand access to care: expanding the healthcare workforce; allowing off-site outpatient end-stage renal disease facilities; expanding telehealth options; allowing more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities; increasing hospital and medical facility staffing; and increasing the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce.
- Governor Abbott updates at a press conference on the distribution of PPE supplies across Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces an executive order loosening some restrictions on surgeries and medical procedures while ensuring hospital capacity and sufficient PPE supplies.
- Governor Abbott announces an online COVID-19 test collection map to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.
- At Governor Abbott’s direction, DSHS is distributing 1,200 vials of the drug remdesivir provided by the federal government to hospitals to treat patients with COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott announces that DSHS is distributing 217 cases of the antiviral drug remdesivir to 112 hospitals across the state of Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces that DSHS is distributing 237 additional cases of the antiviral drug remdesivir to 107 hospitals across the state of Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces DSHS is distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug remdesivir to 85 hospitals across 34 counties, bringing the total number of cases distributed to Texas hospitals to 609.
- Governor Abbott announces that DSHS is distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug remdesivir to 142 hospitals. At 368 cases, enough to treat approximately 1,472 patients, this is the largest distribution so far and brings the total cases distributed to Texas hospitals by DSHS to 977.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients, suspending elective surgeries at hospitals in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Travis counties.
- Governor Abbott announces that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community-Based Testing Sites across Texas while surging resources to Dallas and Houston.
- Governor Abbott issues a proclamation suspending elective surgeries at hospitals in Cameron, Hidalgo, Nueces and Webb counties to help ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$2.67 billion in federal funding has been approved for Texas hospitals caring for people receiving Medicaid, a \$1.07 billion increase from the previous fiscal year.
- Governor Abbott announces DSHS is distributing 448 additional cases of the antiviral drug remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas, bringing the state total to 1,425 cases distributed since May 12.
- Governor Abbott issues a proclamation suspending elective surgeries in hospitals in all counties located within 11 Trauma Service Areas in Texas to ensure hospital capacity.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC urge eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers to apply for federal COVID-19 relief funds before the August 3 deadline.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC is extending flexibilities to Medicaid and CHIP recipients and providers through Oct. 23, 2020, to minimize face-to-face interactions and ensure continuity of care.
- Governor Abbott visits the McAllen Convention Center for the opening of the temporary health care facility, which will help increase the RGV's hospital capacity.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce that the federal government has further extended the deadline for Medicaid and CHIP providers to apply for the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund to Aug. 28, 2020.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce that \$1.1 billion in Quality Incentive Payment Program funds have been approved to support Texas nursing facilities providing care for individuals receiving Medicaid.

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HELPING FAMILIES, SMALL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO COPE

- In January at Governor Abbott's direction, DSHS begins posting coronavirus information and resources online and broadly promotes preventative hygiene measures.
- At Governor Abbott's direction, TEA shares preventative guidance with school districts.
- Governor Abbott declares a State of Disaster for all Texas counties due to the imminent threat posed, thereby authorizing the use of all available and necessary state resources to assist Texas communities.
- Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton issue a joint statement on reports of price gouging and announce a consumer hotline.
- Governor Abbott briefs legislators, mayors and county officials by phone conference on the state's strategies to mitigate spread and ensure communities are prepared to respond.
- Governor Abbott waives certain state trucking regulations to expedite delivery of resources in Texas, and to allow trucks from alcohol industry to deliver grocery supplies.
- Governor Abbott waives regulations to ensure students in work-study programs receive critical funding during school closures.
- Governor Abbott waives STAAR testing requirements and requests same for federally required testing.
- Governor Abbott hosts a televised town hall to answer Texans' questions about the state's response.
- Governor Abbott waives the waiting period for new unemployment benefits to speed payments to impacted families across the state.
- Governor Abbott holds call with mayors, county judges to discuss state and local response strategies.
- Governor Abbott's request for an emergency designation for small business statewide receives federal approval, making small business disaster loans from SBA available in Texas.
- Governor Abbott and TEA announce a Texas Students MealFinder Map to ensuring continuing access to the school lunch program.
- Governor Abbott offers supplemental grants through his Public Safety Office to fund critical needs for providers serving foster and homeless youth and kinship care families.
- Governor Abbott issues a waiver allowing restaurants to sell bulk retail products directly to consumers.
- Governor Abbott announces a \$16.2 million grant to help communities provide meals for older adults.
- First Lady Cecilia Abbott posts a video on social channels reminding Texans to check in on older or isolated family and neighbors.
- Governor Abbott waives certain Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) regulations to extend childcare capacity for front line workers.
- Governor Abbott's request to automatically renew Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to suspend interview requirements receives federal approval.
- Governor Abbott announces the Comfort Food Care Package program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families, and to support local restaurants.
- Governor Abbott announces a federal stimulus package to relieve the economic impact on unemployed workers and the state's hardest-hit businesses; includes retroactive payments of unemployment benefits.
- Governor Abbott announces grants totaling \$14.1 million awarded to various military communities across the state to ensure installations continue to add military value and to protect jobs.
- Governor Abbott and TEA announce the launch of a "Stay Well, Texas" campaign in English and Spanish to reach families across the state.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order implementing Essential Services and Activities Protocols to encourage Texans to stay at home except for essential activities; within the order is a process for businesses to determine if they meet DHS' definition of essential.
- Governor Abbott announces Care.com is increasing in-home childcare access for frontline workers responding to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Governor Abbott announces more than \$168 million in emergency SNAP food benefits.
- Governor Abbott announces a new online Frontline Child Care website to help essential workers in Texas to locate child care.
- Governor Abbott announces \$50 million in small business loans in partnership with Goldman Sachs and the LiftFund along with other community development financial institutions.
- Governor Abbott announces more than 1,130,000 unemployment claims totaling well over \$400 million have been paid out to Texans whose jobs were impacted by COVID-19 as of April 13, 2020.
- First Lady Cecilia Abbott launches a Stars of Texas Storytime for children on Facebook.

- The Governor's Economic Development & Tourism division begins webinar series for small businesses in addition to recovery resources and information provided online and through email blasts.
- Governor Abbott announces his Public Safety Office will provide \$38 million in federal funds to local governments.
- Governor Abbott announces executive orders: establishing the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas; directing select services to reopen under a Retail-To-Go strategy; closing schools for the remainder of the year other than to support video instruction by teachers; and loosening some restrictions on surgeries and medical procedures while ensuring hospital capacity and sufficient PPE supplies. Reopening strategies will be guided by the Strike Force Medical Advisory Board and with the advice of the Strike Force Special Advisory Counsel of business leaders representing the state's regions and industries.
- Governor Abbott announces that SNAP food benefits may be used for online food purchases.
- Governor Abbott announces nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response.
- Governor Abbott announces up to \$11.3 million in HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance from HUD to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.
- Governor Abbott and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service announce a free online training series for childcare providers and parents.
- Governor Abbott announces Texans can continue to receive unemployment benefits throughout the COVID-19 response if they choose not to return to work for certain health reasons.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$3 million emergency grant for aging and disability services, and \$5.8 million for disaster crisis counseling services.
- Governor Abbott and OneStar Foundation announce the Texas COVID Relief Fund.
- Governor Abbott, TEA and Dallas ISD announce the launch of Operation Connectivity to provide internet connectivity for students statewide.
- Governor Abbott announces HHSC has received over \$1 billion in pandemic food benefits; P-EBT can be used in the same way as SNAP food benefits to pay for groceries.
- Governor Abbott announces HHSC has received more than \$3 million in federal funding to provide shelter and services to survivors of family and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott announces the TWC has extended payment deadlines for designated reimbursing employers, including non-profits, local governments, school districts and other qualifying employers.
- Governor Abbott and HHSC announce \$3.6 million in funding for nursing facilities to purchase tablets, webcams and headphones to connect residents with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$177 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of June with funding from the USDA.
- Governor Abbott directs HHSC to enact emergency rules that provide strict health and safety standards and procedures for childcare centers in Texas.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC is extending the application deadline for the federal P-EBT to July 31.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$182 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of July with funding from the USDA.
- Governor Abbott announces that his Public Safety Office will provide \$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties throughout the COVID-19 response.
- TEA announces additional reopening guidance, including local option for an online-only start to the 2020-21 school year.
- Governor Abbott announces that the State will allocate an additional \$118 million in federal funding to support higher education, including \$93 million to help students continue or restart their progress toward earning a post-secondary credential or degree.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC has received federal authority to extend certifications by six months for SNAP recipients whose benefits are up for renewal in July and August.
- Governor Abbott announces that the grade promotion requirement related STAAR test for students in grades 5 and 8 has been waived for the upcoming school year.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC is extending the application deadline for the federal P-EBT to August 21 to ensure eligible families have more time to apply for this one-time food benefit.

- Governor Abbott announces that the HHSC will provide approximately \$185 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of August as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott announces that TWC has applied for additional unemployment benefit funding that will provide an additional \$300 per week in benefits for qualifying Texans.
- Governor Abbott announces that TEA, in partnership with Local Education Agencies, has procured more than 1 million personal devices and WiFi hotspots as part of the state's Operation Connectivity initiative.
- Governor Abbott announces the federal government has approved nearly \$1.4 billion in initial funds made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC has received federal approval to allow SNAP recipients to apply over the phone for replacement benefits for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Laura.
- Governor Abbott announces that HHSC will provide approximately \$188 million in extended emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of September.

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OPENING TEXAS

- On April 27, Governor Abbott announces Phase One of the State's ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19, and publishes online a report and checklists for download for individuals, employers, employees, customers and others.
- On May 5, Governor Abbott announces expanded openings of certain businesses and activities; announces new guidance from TEA on graduation ceremonies; announces the creation of Surge Response Teams to combat any COVID-19 flare ups in Texas; and publishes updated Open Texas checklists online for businesses/services now open, for openings effective May 8 and for openings effective May 18.
- On May 18, Governor Greg Abbott announces the second phase of the State's ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase Two, restaurants may increase their occupancy to 50%, and additional services and activities that remained closed under Phase One may open with restricted occupancy levels and minimum standard health protocols laid out DSHS.
- Governor Abbott and DPS announce phased reopening of driver license offices.
- Governor Abbott issues an executive order terminating air travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Abbott expands covered services in a previous order opening Texas.
- On May 26, Governor Abbott issues a proclamation expanding additional services and activities that can open under Phase Two of the State's plan to safely and strategically open.
- On June 3, Governor Abbott announces the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. All businesses and customers should continue to follow DSHS' minimum standard health protocols.
- Governor Abbott delivers opening remarks for the Small Business Webinar Series: Business Strategies For An Evolving Future.
- On June 25, Governor Abbott announces a pause in further phases to open Texas as the state responds to an increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.
- Governor Abbott issues statement after Texas named the Best Business Climate in America: "As we respond to COVID-19 and revitalize the economy, we will continue to focus on strategies to attract more employers to our state and create economic opportunity for every Texan."

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