



WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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County Health Authority – Dr. Jeffrey Gubbels

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After consulting state and local health officials, Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath has filed necessary documentation requesting TABC Approval to reopen local Bars (and similar establishments) at 50% capacity starting Wednesday, October 14th.

On Wednesday, October 7, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-32 granting County Judge's- in hospital regions with low COVID-19 hospitalizations – the ability to opt their county into opening bars at up to 50% capacity beginning October 14th.

“At this time, our current active cases, low positivity rates, and very low new case totals support the reopening of these establishments provided bar owners closely follow and adhere to the Governors proposed guidelines,” said Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath.

All Wharton County bar owners desiring to reopen pursuant to Governors Abbotts GA-32 Order must attend a special meeting on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020**, at 3pm in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the Wharton County Courthouse Annex A, 309 Milam Street, Wharton Texas. We will review the Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Bars (or similar establishments) and their patrons. These guidelines are available at

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

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

Every opening bar must have at least one manager or employee ***who is familiar with the rules and guidelines*** working in that bar during all open hours.

Bar owners will be required to sign a statement that they understand the guidelines and will follow them to the best of their abilities.

Wharton County officials are dedicated to the **SAFE** reopening of all local business as soon as possible. We shall continue close monitoring of New Active Cases, COVID Hospitalizations, and Deaths as any escalation in these counts can result in Governor Abbott's immediate closing of bars and similar establishments. It is imperative that All Wharton County Residents remain vigilant in promoting and ensuring a safe and healthy environment throughout. Wharton County officials stand ready to assist and look forward to the safe reopening of all our local businesses.

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Wharton County OEM will provide updates at <http://www.co.wharton.tx.us/> and on facebook.