



## WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

315 EAST ELM STREET  
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488

979.532.1123 Voice

979.531.0473 Fax



### Phillip Spenrath – Wharton County Judge

Andy Kirkland – Emergency Management Coordinator  
Debbie Cenko – Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator  
Chad Odom – Public Information Officer

### County Health Authority – Dr. Jeffrey Gubbels

#### ***Wharton County, TX, Tuesday, May 5, 2020 1600 hours***

Wharton County Office of Emergency Management has received a report today from the Texas Department of State Health Services that we have **no (0)** new positive cases of COVID-19. **No (0)** new recoveries were reported. The total who have tested positive for COVID-19 is now **forty-one (41)** in Wharton County and we have had **twenty-five (25)** reported cases who have recovered. Wharton County remains with **sixteen (16)** active COVID-19 cases.

***Everyone doing their part to slow the spread has yielded low numbers for Wharton County, keep up the good work. THANK YOU!*** Governor Abbott shared his plans for reopening Texas businesses on April 27, 2020, issuing a new executive order outlining opening schedules and restrictions. For the latest executive orders as well as Governor Abbott's more complete Open Texas Report visit [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov). There was another press conference today announcing allowing the opening of more businesses and events stay tuned for details SOON!

The no charge COVID-19 mobile testing for Wharton County to be held on Thursday, May 7th at the Wharton Civic Center. Citizens in the Wharton County can now register for a no charge COVID-19 mobile test appointment. The number for the registration call center is (512) 883-2400, or you may visit [www.TXCOVIDTEST.org](http://www.TXCOVIDTEST.org) to register via smartphone or any computer. To be eligible for testing, you must have one or more symptoms of COVID-19.

Phase 1 of business reopenings began **as of MAY 1**. If data shows that the virus is being appropriately contained during the two weeks following, Phase 2 of business reopenings could begin as early as May 18.

Restaurants, retail shops, movie theaters, malls, museums, libraries and single-person offices are allowed to reopen May 1, but are limited to 25% maximum capacity. Capacity restrictions will expand to 50% as part of Phase 2. Interactive areas with hands-on activities, including children play areas, should remain closed. Restaurants that are required to post the 51% sign required by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, are not allowed to reopen dine-in services but may continue to provide to-go or delivery services.

Licensed healthcare professionals may return to work May 1 under the rules of their respective licensing agencies, and licensed hospitals must reserve 15% of their capacity for treating COVID-19 patients.

No-contact outdoor sports are allowed and non-contact sports are limited to groups of 4. Group size may be expanded as part of Phase 2.

**Remaining closed for now are:** Salons, barber shops, spas, gyms, bars, interactive amusement venues like bowling alleys and video arcades, tattoo and piercing studios, and massage establishments; Gov. Abbott anticipates potentially reopening them as part of Phase 2.

Thanks in advance for your patience over the next few days while we fine-tune our game plan and make sure everyone is in the loop.

email: [andy.kirkland@co.wharton.tx.us](mailto:andy.kirkland@co.wharton.tx.us)

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