



WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Wharton County, TX, Sunday, May 3, 2020 1530 hours

Wharton County Office of Emergency Management has received a report today from the Texas Department of State Health Services that we have **one (1)** new positive case of COVID-19 today, a female 30-40 years of age in the Wharton area and two new recoveries. The total who have tested positive for COVID-19 is now **thirty-nine (39)** in Wharton County and we have had **twenty-two (22)** reported cases who have recovered. Wharton County now has **seventeen (17)** 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. Also, we will be announcing an additional test site in Wharton County later this week. Stay tuned for details SOON!

Texas has a strategy in place to expand testing to 25,000 tests administered per day in early May.

Phase 1 of business reopenings begins **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.

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