

## **COVID-19: Texas Update**

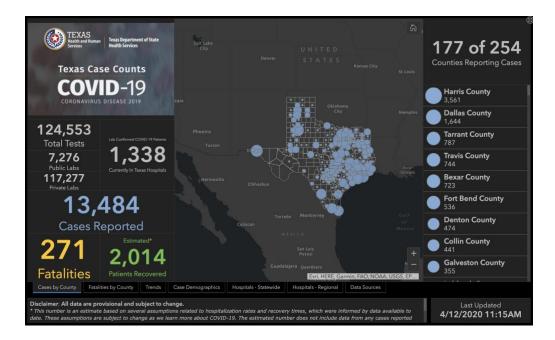
April 13, 2020

## 1. Abbott to issue Executive Order on economic revitalization ...

On Friday afternoon, Governor Abbott announced that he would be issuing an executive order this week about <u>reopening business</u> ... details of the order are not yet known.

The announcement came on the same day that the Governor stated that <u>new cases were growing at a slower rate</u> ... doubling every 6 days ... instead of every 3 days as they were back in mid-March.

Here are the current case counts as of Easter Sunday as reported by the <u>DSHS Dashboard</u>.



## 2. To reopen or not to reopen ... that is the question ...

Debate continues to rage about <u>reopening the economy</u> ... but the decision whether or not to reopen the economy rests largely in the hands of state and local officials ... not the federal government.

And those <u>cities and states have much to weigh on the economic side</u> ... a new report reflects just how badly the coronavirus pandemic is weighing on state and local budgets ... even warning *public* bankruptcies could be a possibility.

The energy industry received some positive news over the weekend with OPEC+ reaching a <u>historic deal</u> to cut oil production by 9.7 mbpd ... but sagging demand worldwide – a decline of 25 mbpd this month alone – continues to sap oil prices.

Tuesday, the <u>Railroad Commission will consider proration</u>, a form of production cuts ... a regulatory measure not used in Texas since the 1970s.

## 3. Other tidbits ...

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was admitted to the ICU last week while battling COVID-19, was <u>released from the hospital</u> ... Doctors have advised him to continue his recovery from home for several days.

<u>China has tightened controls on academic research</u> regarding the coronavirus ... studies on the origins of the virus must be reviewed by central government officials before publication.

With extreme social distancing measures still in place, churches had to get creative for <u>Easter Sunday services</u>.

That is all today.