

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

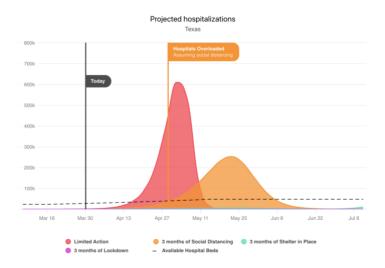
March 30, 2020

1. Texas expands the number of hospital beds available to treat COVID-19 patients ...

In a <u>press conference</u> Sunday afternoon, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas National Guard are prepared to open a pop-up hospital in Dallas ... the state's leading hot spot.

- The facility, located inside the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, will initially contain 250 beds ... and as many as 1,400 beds if needed.
- The Governor noted that while currently the capacity is not needed, the state continues to prepare for the worst-case scenario ...

Speaking of scenarios, here's a look at <u>covidactnow.org's</u> latest modeling for Texas:



## 2. Governor Abbott expands quarantine for in-bound travelers ...

On Friday, our update mentioned that Governor Abbott had ordered inbound air travelers from several hot spots would be required to quarantine for 14-days ...

On Sunday, Governor Abbott expanded on that executive order in two ways:

- Those travelling by roadway from Louisiana will be required to selfquarantine for 14 days ...
- Air travelers from additional hot spots the states of California and Washington, and the cities of Miami, Atlanta, Detroit, and Chicago – will also be subject to the DPS enforced quarantine.

The Governor also issued an Executive Order preventing the release of dangerous felons ... in what appears to be a reaction to recently released prisoners in <u>Harris County</u>.

The Executive Orders can be found <u>here</u>, <u>here</u>, and <u>here</u>, respectively.

## 3. Trump extends social-distancing guidance until April 30, 2020 ...

In a <u>press conference Sunday afternoon</u>, President Trump announced that the federal government's recommended social-distancing measures would remain in effect until April 30 ... the measures were set to expire on Monday.

The President also suggested that the peak death rate would be reached by mid-April ... and he expressed hope that the U.S. economy would be well on its way to recovery by June 1.

The announcement came on the heels of <u>Dr. Fauci's prognostication</u> that over 1,000,000 Americans could catch the disease and over 100,000 could die ...

## 4. Other tidbits ...

By the numbers ... <u>DSHS Dashboard reports</u> that as of Sunday Texas has tested 25,483 persons ... of which 2,552 indicated a positive case of COVID-19 ... 34 deaths have been reported. In all, 118 of 254 counties are now reporting active COVID-19 cases.

Governor Abbott also announced the <u>request of an additional 1135 Waiver</u> from the federal government aimed at ensuring the state has sufficient healthcare workers to meet the pandemic.

Abbott Laboratories <u>unveiled a small, portable test for coronavirus</u> that can determine if someone is positive within a matter of minutes ... Abbott plans to make 50,000 tests a day.

President Trump signed the CARES Act into law on Friday afternoon ...

That is all today.