

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

May 19, 2020

## 1. Texas moves to Phase II of reopening ...

Governor Abbott announced further openings in an <u>executive order</u> yesterday ...

The announcement came against the backdrop of a steady increase in new confirmed cases, including the state's largest increase in a single day over the weekend.

The Governor cited the <u>drop in the rate of people testing positive</u>, and the availability of hospital capacity ... hospitalizations have remained relatively flat despite the increase in confirmed cases.

Notable businesses permitted to reopen are ...

- Child Care Centers ... effective May 18, 2020
- Youth Clubs/Youth Sports ... effective May 18, 2020
- Bars, including wineries and breweries ... at 25% capacity ... starting May 22, 2020
- Youth camps ... effective May 31, 2020
- Professional sports ... but without spectators ... May 31, 2020.

The full list of the businesses permitted to be reopened, along with minimum safety protocols for each business can be found <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>

There were two areas of the state that were not yet allowed to begin Phase 2: El Paso and the Amarillo area. Both areas have experienced a sharp increase in cases in the last week.

## 2. President Trump is taking hydroxychloroquine and zinc ...

Yesterday, President Trump revealed that he has been taking a preventative regime of hydroxychloroquine and zinc.

The regime was begun after consultation with his doctor and on the backdrop of <u>recent revelations</u> that White House staff had tested positive for the coronavirus. The positive tests have prompted more staffers to work from home and have kept the Vice President from visiting the West Wing for over a week.

President Trump has said that he is being tested regularly and has continued to test negative for the virus.

## 3. Other tidbits ...

Pharmaceutical company Moderna announced yesterday that its <u>vaccine</u> <u>candidate had positive results</u> from Phase I clinical trials, producing virus-neutralizing antibodies in those tested that exceeded the level seen in people who've had the virus.

The federal government <u>released guidelines</u> for reopening nursing homes ... not surprisingly, the guidelines advise that mitigation measures for nursing homes should be relaxed more slowly. Here is the guidance.

That is all today.