

COVID-19: Texas Update

April 6, 2020

1. Texas touts hospital capacity ...

On Friday, Governor Abbott gave a presentation regarding <u>Texas' hospital</u> <u>capacity</u> ... in total Abbott said that the state had 19,695 beds available.

He also said that the state has 2,107 ICU beds and 8,741 ventilators at the ready.

Texas' case load and hospitalizations are set to peak in late April ... potentially later than hot spots such as New York (see below) ... and current projections show Texas hospital capacity nearly in-line with that peak. See below, from IHME:



2. Pearl Harbor moment ...

Over the weekend, the U.S. Surgeon General likened the next several weeks to this generation's <u>"Pearl Harbor moment"</u> ...

The weekend also saw more intense discussion of possible treatments ... with President Trump again touting the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine ... and others also suggesting that an effective therapeutic was our best short-term hope and should be prioritized.

At the same time, NY Governor Cuomo announced that New York saw a <u>one day decline</u> in the number of deaths in New York ... that coincides with a decrease in the number of hospitalizations ... potentially signaling that NY is at or near its peak.

3. Other tidbits ...

Late last week, the CDC altered recommendations regarding <u>face masks</u> ... urging even those who are not sick to start wearing face masks in public in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

A <u>tiger has caught coronavirus</u> at the Bronx zoo ... the tiger was tested after showing symptoms and is believed to have contracted the virus from an asymptomatic zoo employee.

Governor Abbott continues to prepare for Texas' peak and a worst-case scenario by waiving regulations that would hinder the state's response to the pandemic ... over the weekend Governor Abbott waived regulations to permit Physician Assistants, Medical Physicists, Perfusionists, and Respiratory Care license candidates to obtain an emergency license and immediately enter the workforce.

That is all today.