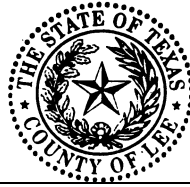


Paul E Fischer

County Judge
Lee County



County Courthouse
200 South Main, Rm. 107
Giddings, TX 78942
Phone: 979-542-3178
Fax: 979-542-2988

JOINT STATEMENT OF LEE COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (Includes Lee County, City of Giddings, City of Lexington)

April 25, 2020

On April 27, 2020 Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued executive Order GA-18 to re-open additional businesses and services as part of the Open Texas response to the COVID-19 disaster declaration. Governor Abbott's order allows for the re-opening of all retail stores and restaurants beginning on Friday, May 1, 2020, but limited to 25% of the establishment's occupancy limit and also subject to additional social distancing and hygiene requirements. Governor Abbott's order allows counties with less than 5 COVID-19 cases to permit re-openings up to a 50% occupancy level. County Judge Paul Fischer said, "I am looking at raising the occupancy level to 50%, but the governor's order requires additional conditions before that can go into effect." **Lee County is not a 50% occupancy county yet.**

Local government operations, including county and municipal government operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services, may reopen as determined by the local government. Lee County, the City of Giddings, and the City of Lexington announce that their governmental buildings will re-open to the public beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 4. Social distancing guidelines and good hygiene rules will be enacted and enforced.

Museums and libraries may open under the same 25% occupancy limitation. Single-person offices may reopen as well. The City of Giddings Public Library will re-open on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Outdoor sports are allowed to resume so long as no more than four participants are playing together at one time. The Giddings Municipal Golf course will re-open on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Certain social distancing practices will be required and must be followed.

Churches and places of worship remain open and the governor provided minimum standard social distancing and health protocols.

The governor's April 27 report establishes checklists for employees and customers of restaurants, retail establishments, libraries, churches, and outdoor sports participants. These guidelines can be found at <http://www.co.lee.tx.us/upload/page/5434/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

COVID-19 continues to be a real threat. With proper precautions, businesses can slowly re-open. Continue to practice good hygiene and social distancing. With everyone's continued cooperation, we can get through this. Stay home as much as possible. Think smart. Be safe.

Call the Lee County, the City of Giddings, and the City of Lexington, COVID-19 call center for information and resources. The call center number is 866-686-7873.