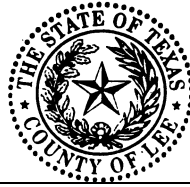


Paul E Fischer

County Judge
Lee County



County Courthouse
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May 8, 2020

Open Texas Plan in Lee County

To: Lee County Residents and Businesses

This is to inform you that as of April 30, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott did not extend his executive order which pertains to rural counties with 5 or less COVID-19 cases as verified by the Texas Department of State Health Services. I have confirmed that as of today, we have only 4 total confirmed cases throughout the county. 2 cases are reported as being recovered, and the 2 new cases are being monitored by DSHS. I continue to work with DSHS and our local health official, Dr. Laura Birnbaum, in monitoring and reporting COVID-19 cases in Lee County. Bear in mind, I can only release information on cases based on confirmed case information provided by the DSHS.

Governor Abbott's plan to Open Texas allows rural counties with 5 or fewer COVID-19 cases to increase capacity for restaurants and retail establishments to 50% from 25%. Governor Abbott's plan required eligible counties to certify to DSHS that the county has investigated, met, and confirmed that Lee County has met the required guidelines. I submitted the confirmation to DSHS this week. I also met this week with the mayors of Giddings and Lexington, the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and other city and county officials to obtain input about allowing certain Lee County businesses to re-open to 50% capacity from 25%.

Effective at 12:00 noon on May 8, 2020, eligible Lee County businesses (generally restaurants, retail businesses, museums and libraries) may increase capacity to 50% of total occupancy. This increase is permitted but not mandatory. **ALL OTHER PROVISIONS REGARDING BUSINESS OPERATIONS STILL APPLY!** Refer to the Open Texas guidelines set by the governor for more detail. The guidelines can be found at <http://www.co.lee.tx.us/upload/page/5434/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

This order will be subject to my continued review and DSHS. In the event that Lee County cases spike or directions from the governor change, this Order can be suspended.

Lee County and the Cities of Giddings and Lexington still encourage safe distancing practices, hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and other safety measures recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control to keep the spread of COVID-19 low in Lee County. Thank you in advance for all you have done to keep Lee County's numbers low. I anticipate in the next couple of weeks and in the future to continue opening additional businesses and increasing capacities, all of which depend on keeping the spread of COVID-19 below the threshold.

Paul Fischer
County Judge