



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 5, 2020

## NOTICE

### Reopening of Texas (COVID-19)

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has determined that the reopening of Texas will occur in three distinct phases, with Phase 1 having started May 1, 2020, and ending in mid-May, dependent on progress in the mitigation of the COVID-19 virus across Texas. The Governor's [Report to Open Texas](#) provides the comprehensive plan for reopening many closed businesses across the state in a careful, phased approach. During Phase I, the plan allows many customer-oriented businesses, including restaurants, movie theaters and retail stores (no barber shops, beauty parlors, schools or bars), to begin reopening on Friday, May 1, with a restriction allowing them to only operate at 25% of their normal capacity. Governor Abbott plans to further loosen capacity restrictions during Phase 2, starting in mid-May, to 50% of normal capacity, and to also allow the opening of additional businesses, provided Texas does not see a surge in new cases. Detailed information on the Governor's Report To Open Texas plan is available at the link:

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-announces-phase-one-to-open-texas-establishes-statewide-minimum-standard-health-protocols>.

The Governor also issued 3 Executive Orders to effectuate the reopening plan:

- [Executive Order No. GA-18](#) relating to the expanded reopening of services as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.
- [Executive Order No. GA-19](#) relating to hospital capacity during the COVID-19 disaster.
- [Executive Order No. GA-20](#) relating to expanding travel without restrictions as part of the safe, strategic plan to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

The following restrictions shall remain in place:

Every person who enters the State of Texas as the final destination through an airport, from a point of origin or point of last departure in the following—State of

California; State of Connecticut; State of New York; State of New Jersey; State of Washington; City of Atlanta, Georgia; City of Chicago, Illinois; City of Detroit, Michigan; or City of Miami, Florida—shall be subject to mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Texas or the duration of the person’s presence in Texas, whichever is shorter. The governor may by proclamation add to or subtract from the list of states and cities covered by this executive order.

- A covered person shall use a form prescribed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to designate a quarantine location in Texas, such as a residence or a hotel, and provide a full name, date of birth, home address, telephone number, and driver license or passport information. DPS Troopers, or other approved peace officers, shall collect a completed form from each covered person immediately upon disembarking and verify it against the person’s driver license or passport.
- A covered person shall proceed directly from the airport to the designated quarantine location entered on the DPS form.
- A covered person shall remain in the designated quarantine location for a period of 14 days or the duration of the person’s presence in Texas, whichever is shorter, leaving only to seek medical care or to depart from Texas.

## **Questions or Issues**

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

## **Resources**

- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>

Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM\_Ambassador