

LLANO COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF LLANO COUNTY
JUDGE**

COVID-19 (New Coronavirus)



FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

April 29, 2020

Llano, TX- 4:00 PM-

On April 27, 2020 in regularly scheduled Llano County Commissioners Court, the County Judge and Commissioners approved the extension of the Llano County Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency Disaster due to COVID-19 to May 29, 2020. "We anticipated and approved the extension of the Declaration of Disaster in order to remain consistent with the governor's order so that we can remain eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement of expenses associated with our COVID-19 response." Judge Cunningham said.

On this same date, Governor Greg Abbot announced and issued Executive Order GA-18, which provides for some Texas businesses to reopen beginning May 1, 2020, providing the customers and businesses comply with Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) guidelines.

GA-18 stipulates retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and malls are permitted to reopen on Friday, May 1, however, these services must limit their capacity to 25% of their listed occupancy. The order also provides for a second wave of openings and looser restrictions that will include barbershops, hair salons, bars and gyms which may go into effect as early as May 18, once state officials have obtained two weeks of data and confirmed there is no flare-up of COVID-19. The Governor's announcement is accompanied by additional information at [Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#).

On page 44 and 45, the Governor provides a stipulation for individual Rural Texas Counties to verify they had 5 or fewer cases as of April 30, 2020 as confirmed by DSHS and to certify and affirm to DSHS that the county has met specific health standard protocols as required by the Governor's Office. This attestation will allow Llano County businesses to increase customer capacity to 50%, providing customers and businesses adhere to GA-18 guidelines and that the county remains at or below 5 confirmed and active cases.

Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham stated, "Llano County will be submitting our letter of attestation to DSHS on April 30, 2020. This will allow many of our businesses to begin operations at 50% capacity on May 1, 2020. Providing the number of confirmed and active COVID-19 cases remain 5 or less, many of our businesses will be allowed to operate at this level and we look forward to remaining businesses to begin to return to operations in the coming weeks".

At this time, the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS) is reporting 207 counties have confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 27,054 confirmed cases and 732 fatalities in Texas. This number does not include the "presumptive positive" cases which have not been tested or quantified due to limitations on test kits or have not received results back from tests.

DSHS has additional information on the COVID-19 for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

####