



WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Wharton County, TX, Monday, May 18, 2020 1130 hours

Wharton County Office of Emergency Management has received a report today from the Texas Department of State Health Services that we have **one (1)** new positive case of COVID-19 and **two (2)** new recoveries were reported. The total who have tested positive for COVID-19 is now **forty-three (43)** in Wharton County and we have had **thirty-three (33)** reported cases who have recovered. Wharton County has **ten (10)** active COVID-19 cases.

Everyone doing their part to slow the spread has yielded low numbers for Wharton County, keep up the good work. THANK YOU! Today at 2 pm Governor Abbott will address the state with additional information regarding opening up Texas. For the latest executive orders as well as Governor Abbott's more complete Open Texas Report visit gov.texas.gov.

Phase 1 of business reopenings have begun. As of now: Restaurants, retail shops, movie theaters, malls, museums, libraries and single-person offices are allowed to reopen, but are limited to 25% maximum capacity. Capacity restrictions will expand to 50% as part of Phase 2. Interactive areas with hands-on activities, including children play areas, should remain closed. Restaurants that are required to post the 51% sign required by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission are not allowed to reopen dine-in services but may continue to provide to-go or delivery services.

Licensed healthcare professionals may return to work under the rules of their respective licensing agencies, and licensed hospitals must reserve 15% of their capacity for treating COVID-19 patients.

No-contact outdoor sports are allowed and non-contact sports are limited to groups of 4. Group size may be expanded as part of Phase 2.

The following businesses have opened:

Cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons/shops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers practice their trade as well as Tanning salons; provided that they ensure at least six feet of social distancing between operating work stations. Swimming pools may operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the pool; local public swimming pools may operate only if permitted by the local government.

Today, Monday, May 18, 2020 the following may open:

Services provided by office workers in offices that operate at up to the greater of five individuals or 25 percent of the total office workforce; provided that the individuals maintain appropriate social distancing. Manufacturing services, for facilities that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the facility. Gyms and exercise facilities and classes that operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the gym or exercise facility; provided, however, that locker rooms and shower facilities must remain closed, but restrooms may open.

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Wharton County OEM will provide updates at <http://www.co.wharton.tx.us/> and on facebook.