



Open Texas Guide

Updated May 8, 2020

In accordance with Governor's Abbott's Executive Orders GA-21 and GA-18, the opening of businesses and activities must follow the minimum standard health protocols recommend by [DSHS](#) and adhere to the [CDC](#) hygiene and safety guidelines.

Opened May 1

• Dine-in restaurants

- Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.*
- Applies to restaurants that have less than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- The occupancy limit does not include outdoor seating areas.
- Valet services are prohibited except for vehicles with placards or plates for disabled parking.

• Golf Courses

- One person per golf cart and no more than four participants.

• Movie Theaters

- Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.*

• Museums and Libraries

- Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.*
- Local public museums and libraries can operate only if permitted by the local government.
- Interactive exhibits and child play areas must remain closed.

• Non-essential retail businesses

- May operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.*
- May continue to provide retail-to-go and curbside doorstep delivery service.

• Shopping Malls

- Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.*
- Food-court dining areas, play areas and interactive displays must remain closed.

Businesses can adopt additional health and safety protocols for the health and safety of employees, contractors and customers.

* Employees and contractors are not counted towards the 25% occupancy limitation.

Updates to May 1 reopening

• Churches

Maintain at least six feet of separation from other individuals. Keep at least two empty seats between parties in a row from individuals not within the same household. Read the Guidance for Houses of Worship [here](#).

• Offices

Single person offices can operate. On May 18, an expanded list of employers operating offices with up to the greater of five individuals or 25% of the employer's total workforce becomes effective.

• Outdoor Sports

Individuals can engage in outdoor sports, but must not include contact with other participants and no more than four participants play the sport at any time.

• Wedding reception venues

Services held at other indoor locations are limited to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.* Reception held outside are not subject to an occupancy limit.

* Employees and contractors are not counted towards the 25% occupancy limitation.

Opening May 8

• Salons

Ensure at least six feet of physical distancing between operating workstations. Can adopt additional safety protocols to protect the health and safety of employees, independent contractors and customers.

- Barbershops
- Cosmology and Hair
- Nails
- Tanning

• Swimming Pools

Indoor and outdoor pools can operate up to 25% of the facility's capacity. Public pools can operate only if permitted by the local government.

Opening May 18

• Gyms and exercise facilities

Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.* Locker rooms and showers must remain closed, but restrooms may be open.

* Employees and contractors are not counted towards the 25% occupancy limitation.

• Office based employees and employers

Can operate up to five individuals or 25% of the total office workforce and maintaining physical distancing protocols.

• Manufacturing facilities

Can operate up to 25% of the facility's total listed occupancy.

Businesses can adopt additional health and safety protocols for the health and safety of employees, contractors and customers.

The following businesses, facilities and services are NOT OPEN or allowed at this time:

- Bars
- Gyms
- Interactive amusement venues (such as video arcades, bowling)
- Massage, tattoo or piercing studios
- No visitors to nursing homes, assisted living or long-term care facilities
- Schools (in-person classrooms) shall remain closed for 2019-2020 year
- Water parks and splash pads



Frequently Asked Questions

Q Where can I find the guidelines for re-opening my business?

A The Department of State Health Services has created guidelines for businesses, employers, customers, and individuals on how to safely provide and access services.
dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx

Q What are the restrictions on travel?

A Executive Order GA-20 requires individuals entering the State of Texas as their final destination through an airport, from a point of origin or point of last departure in the following locations:

- State of California
- State of Connecticut
- State of New Jersey
- State of New York
- State of Washington
- City of Atlanta, Georgia
- City of Chicago, Illinois
- City of Detroit, Michigan
- City of Miami, Florida

shall be subject to mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days or the duration of the individual's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter.

Q When will additional businesses and services be allowed to open?

A Governor Abbott said the second phase of the Open Texas plan could come as soon as May 18 as long as the state sees two weeks of data to confirm no flare-up of COVID-19. The second phase would allow businesses to expand their occupancy to 50 percent.

Q What services can hospitals provide?

A Executive Order GA-19 requires all hospitals under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to reserve at least 15 percent of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients as determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Q Where can I find more information about testing services for COVID-19?

A dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/testing.aspx