



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MAY 18, 2020 UPDATE

- Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. to announce what he termed “Phase II of re-opening Texas.” As of this update, I have not seen an Executive Order that implements what he addressed at the press conference – however, there are new and updated Strike Force guidelines available at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>. I prefer to err on the side of caution as sometimes there are inconsistencies between the Governor’s spoken word (at a press conference) and his written word (in the form of an Executive Order).
- What the Governor said this afternoon is:
 - Effective today (May 18) Child Care Centers, Massage/Tattoo/Piercing studios, and Youth Clubs are allowed to open in accordance with the Guidelines.
 - Effective this Friday (May 22) Bars, Bowling Alleys/Bingo Halls, Rodeos and Zoos/Aquariums/Natural Caverns may open with restrictions on the number of participants. Restaurants are authorized to operate at 50% occupancy levels.
 - Effective Sunday May 31 Day/Overnight Youth Camps, Youth Sports and Professional sports with no spectators may begin operating.

The City Staff is in the process of analyzing the Guidelines in order to provide an informed recommendation regarding what is going to be permissible. When combined with an official Executive Order, we will post updates here and on the City website.

- I am waiting on today’s report from the Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator but as of this past Saturday, he was reporting 224 total cases in Coryell County which includes a total of 157 TDCJ offenders. There was one new case reported in Gatesville on Friday. There have been a total of 28 reported cases with a Gatesville address (18 inside the City limits with one of those reported as asymptomatic and 10 outside the City limits). 16 of those cases have recovered, with 11 of those inside the City limits. It is probable that the confirmed cases outside the City limits frequent the same facilities as our residents, so I include them in my numbers.
- From a regional perspective, the Department of State Health Services is reporting that as of 3:25 p.m. Coryell County has 224 cases (indicating no change since Saturday). There are 98 confirmed cases in McLennan County, 248 cases in Bell County, 481 cases in Williamson County, 8 in Lampasas County, and 7 in Hamilton County.
- The Gatesville Fitness Center (including the Indoor Pool) opened this morning and will operate Monday through Saturday on reduced hours. We are still only able to accommodate our Fitness Center patrons on a 25% occupancy level, and have implemented a block schedule that is based on calling to make an appointment. This is the only way that we can provide cardio and weight training, group exercise classes, and water exercise classes. We have attempted to schedule enough blocks so that patrons who work can sign up for at least one block of time per day. I completely understand this arrangement is not perfect for everyone, and requires you to make a reservation in advance so that you can be guaranteed a spot. Please work with us until we can potentially get back to full operating capability.
- We encourage everyone to wear a mask when out in public out of respect for your fellow citizens. The Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator was able to provide some masks to the City today and we have begun distributing those to public facilities and businesses. If you are interested in getting a mask at no charge, you can make your request via the City website.
- There will more updated information tomorrow, but I wanted to get this preliminary information out so that you had an opportunity to review it. Thanks to everyone who is simply doing the right thing in these difficult times.

Bill Parry
City Manager