

Office of Judge J.D. (Butch) Wagner Terry County Judge

30 April 2020

News Release:

Terry County Follows Directives from Governor Greg Abbott And Medical Professionals in Phase One of Reopening Texas

Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-18 on 27 April. You may view EO GA-18 at: [DID11316_1_042720.pdf](#) GA-18. There is also a 64-page Report that includes further guidance at www.gov.texas.gov/opentexas. Executive Order GA-18 outlines several procedures to allow some businesses to reopen at 25% of listed occupancy capacity on the first day of May.

Governor Abbott has stated that he will have a news conference on May 11 to announce if the 25% occupancy rule is working. If the rule is keeping the number of statewide positive COVID 19 cases down, he may announce that all of the state can go to 50% on May 14.

The South Plains Public Health Department and the other health care professionals that I rely on in this battle to contain COVID 19 are not comfortable in opening the occupancy restriction to 50% on 1 May 2020. Our current practices of social distancing, avoiding crowds, and using good hygiene are working. Let's continue to take steps to avoid exposure to infection while enjoying this first phase of reopening Texas with 25% occupancy in those entities listed in Executive Order GA-18. No one wants to go backwards in the fight to contain COVID 19. Let's move forward utilizing data and advice from doctors.

Bottom line, I am going to follow the guidance of doctors and healthcare professionals within the framework of the Governor's Executive Orders in how Terry County reopens. 25% occupancy is the plan for May 1st. I expect that Governor Abbott will have several more news conferences and will issue more Executive Orders in the next few weeks. Any future Executive Order could change how Terry County and Texas will respond to the continuing COVID 19 epidemic. I am beyond ready to open up, but we need to do so in a manner that is consistent with proven health protocols.

Thank you,

Respectfully

Terry County Judge J.D. (Butch) Wagner

