



TEXAS OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION | SINCE 1919

5-1-20

COVID-19

The below information is compiled to assist you in planning and preparation during this unprecedented time. The status of the COVID-19 pandemic is extremely dynamic with information changing by the minute. Please utilize links for most up-to-date information and contact TXOGA if you have any questions relating to the information provided.

Statistics:

NEW Texas Case Count (DSHS): 29,229 cases, 816 deaths

NEW National Case Count (CDC): 1,062,446 cases, 62,406 deaths

Recent updates

Executive/Legislative Updates

- **NEW** 5.1.20 [Comptroller Hegar issues his monthly release on tax collections](#) and April was down significantly. This news comes as no surprise, given the unfortunate condition of oil and gas markets and the economic losses caused by the COVID-19 disaster.
 - In the all-funds column, total tax collections were down 20% from April of 2019, with oil and gas production taxes each falling roughly 45%. A 20% decline in all-funds revenue from all taxes represents about \$1 billion lost in a single month. For this year, total all-funds tax collections had been anticipated to be \$61 billion. The sales tax fell 9%. May collections are likely to be worse and will be reported on or about June 1.
- **NEW** 4.30.20 [Guidance Letter About Reopening Non-Essential Businesses Regarding GA-18](#). Attorney General Paxton opines that “*the Governor’s order is neither vague nor unenforceable, and local governments are prohibited from allowing businesses to reopen unless they are recognized as essential or reopened services under the Governor’s order.*”
- **NEW** 4.30.20 Governor Abbott [announces new TWC guidance for unemployment claimants](#).
 - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to COVID-19. Under this guidance, Texans can continue to receive unemployment benefits throughout the COVID-19 response if they choose not to return to work for certain reasons as specified by TWC.
- 5.1.20 Phase one of Governor Abbott’s [Texans Helping Texans: The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#) begins today.

Restrictions on Travel or Movement

- **UPDATED** [TEXAS ORDINANCE DOCUMENT](#). TXOGA has developed a spreadsheet to assist in tracking various state, county and city ordinances. This is a dynamic document and can change daily.
- **UPDATED** Shelter in Place [Map](#) for Texas' Counties

Links and Resources

General

Latest Health Authorities Updates

- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) Guidance](#)
 - Recommendation Regarding the [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)
 - [Communications toolkits](#)

Federal

- White House
 - President's [30 days to slow the Spread of Corona virus \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Guidelines: Opening Up America Again](#) containing three recommended phases to return to business as usual
- Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency
 - [Version 3.0 of CISA Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)
 - [Critical Infrastructure Guidance: Version 2.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Worker Guidance](#)
 - [Interim Guidance](#) for implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
 - [Do's and Don'ts](#) for employers and employees related to COVID-19 exposures

State

- Texans Helping Texans: [The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#).
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) [COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) [COVID-19 page](#) outlining agency action
- Texas Supreme Court COVID-19 [court operation guidance](#)

Workplace guidance for employers

- OSHA [guidance and resources](#)
- CDC [guidance for workplace](#)

References

TXOGA Information, Outreach and Responses

- TXOGA President Todd Staples was appointed to lead Governor Abbott's Strike Force to Open [Energy Workgroup](#).
- [DPS Screening at Louisiana Border and DPS Response to TXOGA](#)

- [Regional Office Maps](#) This map outlines the boundaries of the various Highway Patrol offices. Upon identifying the specific region you are looking for, search for the office and a contact name and phone number will update.
- TAM's (with TXOGA and other allied trades) [letter](#) to Mexico's health administration regarding adoption of [CISA guidelines](#) for critical infrastructure industries.
- [Texas' border states and their current statewide orders.](#)
- [TXOGA information on PPE donations and/or selling of supplies.](#)
 - For specific communities you service, please contact TXOGA's Executive Director of STEER, Stephanie Moreno at smoreno@steer.com.
- [TXOGA GUIDANCE 3.24.20 on CISA guidelines for critical infrastructure workers](#)

Executive/Legislative Updates

- Governor Abbott [announces phase one to Open Texas and establishes statewide minimum health protocols](#) and issued the following new executive orders [GA 18](#), [GA 19](#), [GA 20](#), and the Governor's Report to [Open Texas](#) which outline the ability for Texas to begin opening for business on May 1st.
 - It is important to note that the new orders continue the exemptions in place for critical infrastructure as defined by the CISA guidelines.
- TDEM's [statewide COVID-19 test collection online map](#) to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community.
- TDHCA [will provide HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance \(TBRA\) to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.](#)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will provide [a series of free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire, and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas](#)
- Temporarily [waiver](#) for certain testing requirements for advanced practice registered nurses
- [Update on job openings](#) in Texas and resources for Texans seeking employment
- Texas National Guard will be organizing and constructing [mobile testing sites around the state.](#)
- [GA-17](#) relating to the establishment of the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas.
- [GA-16](#) relates to the safe, strategic reopening of select services and activities in Texas. This order establishes a temporary "Retail-To-Go" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen beginning Friday, April 24.
- [GA-15](#) relates to hospital capacity and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for the COVID-19 response. The order loosens restrictions on surgeries [put in place by Governor Abbott in March.](#)
- Office of Economic Development and Tourism (EDT) [launches small business webinar series.](#)
- [\\$38 million in federal COVID-19 emergency funding for local governments](#)
- [Governor Abbott, Goldman Sachs, LiftFund announce \\$50 million in loans for small businesses](#)
- [Extension of disaster declaration.](#)

- Online [Frontline Child Care Website](#) to help **essential workers** in Texas locate child care and support child care centers who are caring for these children during the outbreak.
- [Update on incoming shipments of PPE and distribution in Texas](#)
- [Update on State's Robust Hospital Capacity.](#)
- [TDEM Guidance](#) to Sectors under CISA on [GA-12](#) , [GA-11](#) and [GA-14](#)
- [GA-14](#) relating to statewide continuity of essential services and activities through April 30, 2020.
- [GA-12](#) mandates a 14-day quarantine for road travelers arriving from any location in Louisiana.
- [GA-11](#) mandating 14-day quarantine for air travelers.
- [Deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades.](#)
- [Waiver for certain licensing renewal regulations and fees for nurses.](#)
- [GA-10](#) relating to swift submission of daily testing information
- [Major Disaster Declaration](#)
- Department of Public Health's [Declaration of a Public Health Disaster](#)
- [GA-08](#) relating to COVID- 19 preparedness and mitigation.

Regulatory Updates

Texas Attorney General's Office

- [Application of the temporary exemption for qualified property damaged by a disaster does not apply to COVID-19 losses](#)
- [Letter on local governments restricting state employees/contractors from conducting services](#)

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

- [Comptroller Hegar's response](#) to TXOGA's letters on [4.11.20](#) and [3.30.20](#) asking the **Comptroller's Office** use the described price scenario in performing the school district value study and, that under the authority of the Comptroller under the Tax Code, the proposed pricing be used by the state's Central Appraisal Districts for the current tax year. The Comptroller has determined the agency does not have flexibility regarding the January 1 valuation date. Keep in mind, operators continue to have the ability to take their valuation protests to the ARBs and if appropriate, to court.
- [Due date extending for 2020 Texas franchise tax reports](#)

Texas General Land Office

- [Royalty and lease relief on state lands](#)

Public Utility Commission

- Public Utility Commission (PUC) [will consider its COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program again.](#)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- [Guidance on bulk crude oil storage](#)

- [Letter addressing COVID-19 response and requests to rescind the agency's enforcement discretion and administrative relief policies](#)
- [Air Permits New Sign Variance Form](#)

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC)

- Commission meeting on April 21 [discussed](#) motion to delay proration vote until May 5th and the formation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Oil Economic Recovery.
- Commissioner Craddick's [letter](#) to Comptroller requesting extension for monthly deadline on crude oil and natural gas production taxes.
- [RRC CASES](#): an on-line portal that allows the public and practitioners to view and access documents for complaints and other matters going through RRC's hearings process.
- Pipeline operators and local distribution companies
 - [State of Disaster in Texas Waiver Requests](#) for gas pipeline operators on April 28
 - [State of Disaster in Texas Waiver Requests](#).
- Oil and gas operating companies
 - [extension of certain expirations and filling requirements](#)
 - [waiver requests to the district director and assistant district director](#)

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

- [\\$40,000,000 approved for supplemental childcare](#) for families/communities during COVID-19

Judicial Updates

- [Updated and clarified many of its emergency orders](#) addressing Texas courts' pandemic issues.
- [Texas Supreme Court Coronavirus Update](#)
- TCJL's [outreach](#) to members on a potential increase in lawsuits during COVID-19 outbreak.
- [State Bar of Texas Updates and Resources](#)

County/City Updates

- Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued [new order requiring mandatory mask order](#).
- [State Representative Armando Walle to serve as the COVID-19 recovery czar for Harris County](#).
- [Marvin Odum, former president of Shell Oil, named recovery czar for City of Houston](#).

Fuel Waivers

- [TDLR temporarily waives ASTM requirements](#). Disaster declarations are anticipated to be renewed in May and June and likely beyond that date.
- Governor Greg Abbott, along with governors from Utah, Oklahoma and Wyoming, [sent a letter to EPA Administrator Wheeler](#) requesting a waiver for the renewable

volume obligation (RVO) under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). This was not a TXOGA initiated request.

- [State Fuel waivers Tracker](#) for April, May and June listed by date issued. *Courtesy of API*
- [Texas TCEQ Low RPV Fuel Waiver](#)
- [EPA Fuel Waiver for gasoline transition from winter-grade, high volatility to summer-grade, low vapor pressure.](#)
- [TDLR RVP waiver language](#)

Federal News/Updates

- [New testing plan](#) laying out the roles and responsibilities to enhance the partnership between the private sector and the public sector, bringing together state and local governments with the federal government to accomplish and achieve the core principles and objectives.
- President Trump [signs \\$484 billion relief package](#)
- FEMA has published the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: addressing PPE needs in non-healthcare setting.](#)
- [Senate approves new \\$484B Relief Package.](#)
- [President Trump stated he is looking into solutions for American oil during current price concerns.](#)
- Both Governor Abbott and [President Trump anticipate releasing details on plans to get back to work later this week.](#)
- [CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program](#) to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic turndown.
- The Energy Information Agency has released its monthly [Short-Term Energy Outlook.](#)
- [Republican Congressional letter to White House](#) on prioritizing oil and natural gas producers/workforce.
- [Petition for emergency rulemaking in response to EPA guidance](#) from coalition of environmental and public interest groups
- [EPA's letter](#) regarding EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program during COVID-19.