

TEXAS EFFORTS AT COVID CONTROL

Minor restrictions vary by region

- **Now open:** Gyms, in-person summer school classes, retail stores, personal-care businesses such as salons and barbershops, movie theaters, restaurant dine-in services.

Closed: Bars.

On April 17, the governor issued three orders centered on reopening the state. One allows retail outlets to reopen April 24, but items must be delivered to customers' cars, homes or other locations to minimize contact.

On April 27, the governor said he would let his stay-at-home order expire and allow all retailers, movie theaters, museums, libraries and some health-care businesses to reopen at 25 percent capacity as part of the first phase of the state's reopening starting May 1.

On May 6, the governor issued an order to allow gyms and exercise facilities to reopen at 25 percent capacity beginning May 18. Salons, barbershops and other personal-care businesses could reopen May 8, provided they meet additional physical distancing guidelines. Restaurants are allowed to offer dine-in services at 25 percent capacity.

On May 18, gyms and office buildings were allowed to reopen at 25 percent capacity and with additional guidelines.

On May 22, the state entered its second phase of reopening. Bars, bowling alleys, bingo halls and rodeo events were allowed to open with additional guidelines, including occupancy limits.

On May 29, zoos and water parks were allowed to reopen at 25 percent capacity.

On May 31, certain professional sports leagues were allowed to reopen without fans. Recreational sports leagues were allowed to resume.

On June 1, in-person summer school classes were able to resume with additional guidelines.

On June 3, the state entered its third phase, which allows businesses operating at 25 percent capacity to move to 50 percent, with certain protocols still in place. Bars can move to 50 percent capacity, as long as people are seated, and restaurants can now sit 10 people to a table. The third phase also allows amusement parks and carnivals in counties with fewer than 1,000 confirmed cases of the virus to reopen at 50 percent capacity.

On June 12, restaurants increased to 75 percent capacity,

On June 19, amusement parks and carnivals in counties with more than 1,000 confirmed cases were allowed to open at 50 percent capacity.

On June 25, the governor said Texas would pause reopening activities to address a recent spikes in coronavirus cases.

On June 26, the governor shut down bars again and scaled back restaurant dining. He also ordered rafting and tubing outfitters on Texas's popular rivers to close and required outdoor gatherings of 100 people or more to first seek approval from local governments.

On July 2, the governor issued a statewide mandate requiring Texans to wear masks in public in any county with 20 or more positive covid-19 cases. The executive order also grants local officials the power to restrict gatherings of more than 10 people "with certain exceptions."

On July 7, the Texas Education Agency released guidance for the upcoming school year that says it will offer in-person and remote learning, and that it will leave it up to parents to decide. Masks will be required in schools, and "all students, teachers, staff, and visitors coming to campus must be screened before being allowed on campus."

On July 17, Texas education officials extended the time schools can offer online-only instruction before resuming in-person classes in the new academic year.