
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 30, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

STEPHENS COUNTY JUDGE AFFIRMS AND CERTIFIES LESS THAN FIVE ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES FOR STEPEHSN COUNTY, TEXAS

STEPHENS COUNTY, TEXAS—Stephens County Judge Michael C. Roach affirmed and certified to the Texas Department of State Health Services that Comanche County has fewer than five active COVID-19 cases.

On Monday, April 27, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-18 allowing for certain businesses to open up on May 1, 2020 to 25% of of their listed occupancy. These businesses include retail stores, restaurants movie theaters, malls, museums and libraries. Governor Abbott also allowed that rural counties may, on an individual basis, increase capacity for those specific businesses if the County Judge certifies and affirms to the Texas Department of Health Services that the county has five or fewer COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases on April 30, 2020.

Governor Abbott's "Open Texas" plan has other standards in addition to the 5 or less confirmed case requirement that the County is required to meet. Judge Roach addressed each of the standards individually to affirm that the County is in compliance, and that Stephens County wishes to increase the capacities from 25% to 50% for dine-in restaurants, retail stores, museums and libraries.

The complete list of standards related to increased capacity is contained on pages 44-45 of the Governors Open Texas Report at:

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

It is understood that if the County exceeds the threshold for COVID-19 cases or fails to meet any of the standards, then the Governor could order the County to revert to 25% capacity for the businesses listed above, and the Governor may, by proclamation, return any county to the essential services-only level.

Stephens County's first and only positive case was confirmed on April 3rd, 2020, from a test that occurred on March 20th, 2020. Over the next 44 days, Stephens County has not had another positive case. Since then, it appears that residents of Stephens County have been mindful of the precautions and recommendations to slow the spread of the virus. There have been no new cases since March 20th, 2020.

The CDC has issued guidelines on how to help prevent the spread of COVID. Please go to www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus for more details on steps you can take to protect you and your family during these difficult times. For detailed information on the evolving COVID-19 situation please consult the Texas Department of State Health Services <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.



Michael C. Roach
Stephens County Judge
