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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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# COVID-19 UPDATE

## City Reviews State’s Phased Plan to Reopen Texas

**EL PASO, Texas** — The City of El Paso Public Health Department is reporting **27** new COVID-19 cases bringing the county’s cumulative number to **829**, the number of deaths remains at **12**.

To date **265** people have recovered from COVID-19; consequently, there are **552** active cases within the county. The cumulative cases in El Paso County include 436 females and 393 males; see accompanying graphics and map. There are currently 35 patients who are hospitalized, and 19 of those hospitalized are in ICU.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced his Open Texas plan this afternoon. Abbott, who issued three new executive orders, advised he would reopen businesses in Texas in several phases beginning May 1.

By way of Executive Order GA-18, Abbott said he would allow all retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and malls to open on Friday, May 1. These services must limit their capacity to 25 percent of their total listed occupancy. Salons, gyms, massage parlors, bars and clubs are to remain closed; and their status will be re-evaluated in mid-May. Libraries and non-interactive museums may open May 1 and operate at 25 percent of their listed occupancy. The City has not yet made a decision on opening its facilities this Friday. Outdoor sports will be allowed, but limited to groups no larger than four, such as golf and tennis. The City and County El Paso has opted to open golf courses with restrictions.

“We are in the process of reviewing the executive orders issued by Governor Abbott today and how they apply to our community,” said Mayor Dee Margo. “Creating a pathway to rebuild our economy while addressing critical public health needs, and continuing to slow the spread of the virus, is the City’s ultimate goal.”

City officials will evaluate Governor Abbott’s order and move forward with El Paso’s plan with emphasis on the health and wellness of our community. Noting the severity of COVID-19, health officials advise that it is critical El Paso move forward with caution and due diligence.

“It is critically important that we all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Governor has begun planning the reopening of Texas, and so we must be thoughtful in our approach as to how we reopen our community per the State’s orders while still taking into account our community’s health,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City/County Health Authority. “The first line of defense against COVID-19 is to stay home when you can. If you need to leave your home for essential activities, we ask that you wear a cloth face covering. The public must remember there is no vaccine for this disease; which is why we continue to stress that each person must take responsibility and care for each other.”

To report non-compliance call the police department non-emergency at (915) 832-4400, 3-1-1 or visit [www.epstrong.org](http://www.epstrong.org). The 21-COVID hotline is operational from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For referral to services, contact 2-1-1 and select option six (6).

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