Subject: TX Outlines Reopening Economy, Schools closed for semester, loosening restrictions

Governor Abbott conducted a news conference at Noon today in the Texas Capitol, joined by Lt Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Health Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt and others.

Gov. Abbott laid out 3 new executive orders outlining processes and plans to get the Texas economy reopened while keeping Texans safe from COVID-19. Attachments include: Texas DSHS Guidance to Retailers & The Governor’s 3 new executive orders.

Today’s COVID-19 Texas numbers:

- 17,371 confirmed cases (4,306 in Harris County/Houston)
- 428 fatalities
- 4,190 estimated recovered
- 169,536 total tested
- 1,522 currently in TX hospitals

COVID+ cases in 192 of Texas’s 254 counties.

AT PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY: The Governor said his decisions are based on Data and Doctors and that health and safety will continue to be the #1 priority. He expressed confidence that Texas “can corral the coronavirus”.

Today’s executive orders lay out steps aimed at the safe, strategic opening of the Texas economy, including:

- A temporary "Retail-To-Go" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen beginning Friday, April 24th for pickup and delivery by and to customers. See additional Guidelines for Retailers from Texas DSHS attached or at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

- Prohibitions against visiting nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities and long-term care facilities continue.

- Schools will remain closed through the current school year. Teachers may go into the classroom for video instruction, to perform administrative duties, and to clean out their classrooms.

- Loosened restrictions on surgeries. Beginning at 11:59pm on April 21 through 11:59pm on May 8, all licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities must continue to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of a patient. New exceptions include:
Any procedure that, if performed in accordance with the commonly accepted standard of clinical practice, would not deplete the hospital capacity or the PPE needed to cope with COVID-19, or

Any surgery or procedure performed in a licensed health care facility that has certified in writing to Texas HHSC both (1) that it will reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients, accounting for the range of clinical severity of COVID-19 patients, and (2) that it will not request any PPE from any public source—whether federal, state, or local—for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster.

State parks will reopen on Monday, April 20 with strict guidelines including requiring visitors to wear face coverings, maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party, and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

The current stay-at-home order continues through April 30th. Subsequent orders are likely to modify stay-at-home. Look for the next such order to be issued April 27th.

The current order defines “essential services” as those included in the US Department of Homeland Security’s March 28, 2020 Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. Additionally, businesses can apply to the Texas Division of Emergency Management to be added to the list of essential services. (See www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

Texas has also provided Guidelines for Houses of Worship During the COVID-19 Crisis from the Texas Governor and Attorney General.

Governor Abbott also established a Strike Force To Open Texas — a team of nationally recognized medical experts and private and public leaders who will advise the Governor on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas.

Dallas businessman James Huffines will lead the advisory strike force and Mike Toomey will serve as Chief Operating Officer. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Attorney General Ken Paxton, and Comptroller Glenn Hegar will serve as consulting members. Other members of the task force include:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, as Chief Medical Officer of the strike force. Dr. Hellerstedt will be supported by three Chief Medical Advisors:

John Zerwas, MD, Executive Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs at the University of Texas System

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, Former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner and U.S. Medicaid and Medicare Administrator
Parker Hudson, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Dell Medical School and program director for the Internal Medicine Residency

These health experts will develop a medical architecture to comprehensively test and trace COVID-19 that will enable Texans to gradually and safely begin the process of returning to work and other activities.

The medical team will work alongside a Special Advisory Council made up of 39 business leaders representing the state's regions and industries. Special Advisory Council members include:

Arcilia Acosta: President and CEO, CARCON Industries & Construction

Paul Andrews, Jr.: Founder and CEO, TTI Inc.

Mark Bivins: Rancher, partner in Corsino Cattle Company

Kathy Britton: CEO and Owner, Perry Homes

Brad Brookshire: Chairman and CEO, Brookshire Grocery Co.

J. Bruce Bugg, Jr.: Chairman, Texas Transportation Commission

Alonzo Cantu: President & CEO of Cantu Construction

Bobby Cox: Owner and operator, Bobby Cox Companies, Inc.

Adriana Cruz: Executive Director, Economic Development & Tourism Division, Office of the Governor

Michael Dell: Chairman and CEO, Dell Technologies

Scott Dueser: Chairman, President & CEO, First Financial Bank

Don Evans: Chairman of the President George W. Bush Foundation, Chairman of Permian Strategic Partnership

Tilman Fertitta: Chairman, CEO, and sole owner, Landry's, Inc.

Richard Fisher: Senior Advisor, Barclays and Former President & CEO, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Rick Francis: Chairman of the Board, WestStar Bank Holding Company, Inc.

Printice Gary: Founding Partner/Principal and CEO, Carleton Companies
Brad Heffington: Owner of Heffington Farms, Inc. and Triple T Irrigation, Inc.

Jeffery D. Hildebrand: Executive Chairman and Founder, Hilcorp Energy Company

Nancy Kinder: President & CEO, Kinder Foundation

Tom Luce: Founder and Chairman, Texas 2036

Marc McDougal: CEO, McDougal Companies

Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale: Owner, Gallery Furniture

Drayton McLane: Chairman, McLane Group

Elaine Mendoza: Founder, President & CEO of Conceptual MindWorks, Inc

Balous Miller: Owner, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q Restaurants

Carla Moran: Ramar Communications

Dennis Nixon: CEO and Chairman of International Bank of Commerce

David Oliveira: Partner at Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, L.L.P.

Ross Perot, Jr.: Chairman, The Perot Group

Kevin D. Roberts, Ph.D.: Executive Director, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Robert B. Rowling: Owner and Chairman, TRT Holdings, Inc.

Kendra Scott: Founder and CEO, Kendra Scott

Robert F. Smith: Founder, Chairman & CEO, Vista Equity Partners

Sam L. Susser: Chairman of BancAffiliated, Inc.

Massey Villarreal: CEO and President, Precision Task Group, Inc.

Kirk Watson: Founding Dean of the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs

Marc Watts: President, The Friedkin Group

Graham Weston: Former Chairman of Rackspace Hosting Inc.

Sanjiv Yajnik: President of the Financial Services Division, Capital One