

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Representative Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) issued the following statement regarding recent actions to protect Texans and prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):

"Today, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Orders calling for new efforts to minimize exposure to and transmission of COVID-19. I am grateful for the Governor's leadership and fully support these steps to keep Texans safer. I especially appreciate the tireless work of our local West Texas leaders, first responders, health care professionals, and critical customer service workers for their dedication during this challenging time. I strongly encourage West Texas residents to heed the direction of local officials as they prescribe important measures aimed at protecting citizens and maintaining our health care resources. We are strong and we will get through this together."

During the press conference, Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt declared a statewide Public Health Disaster, which will give state and local officials additional tools to respond to COVID-19. Governor Abbott issued the following Executive Orders, effective through midnight on April 3, with the possibility of being extended based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations:

1. Avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people.
2. Avoid in-restaurant/bar dining and drinking, while still allowing for takeout services.
3. People shall not visit nursing homes, unless to provide critical assistance.
4. Schools shall temporarily close.

The Executive Orders do not affect resources such as grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, or other businesses and workplaces of more than 10 people, as long as necessary precautions are maintained to reduce contact and virus transmission. All critical infrastructure will remain operational.

Additional state resources:

- Texas Education Agency's "Texas Students MealFinder Map" to find where Texas schools are serving meals amid closures: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/safe-and-healthy-schools/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>
- Texas Workforce Commission information for employers and jobseekers: <https://twc.texas.gov/news/unemployment-news>
- Texas Department of State Health Services updates on Coronavirus symptoms, testing, and prevention: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus>

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