



THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lake Jackson, Texas

COVID-19 CASES & OPENINGS UPDATES

As expected, yesterday, Governor Abbott announced Phase 2 of his plan to re-open the Texas economy. To see what he announced and all the various rules and guidelines he has put in place for businesses, please go to the website gov.texas.gov/opentexas.

Restaurants can go to a maximum of 50% capacity beginning Friday May 22nd, if they can maintain the proper social distancing requirements laid out by the Governor. If they cannot maintain the required social distancing, then their capacity is dictated by what seating they can accommodate and still meet the distancing standards. Also beginning May 22nd bars can open at 25% capacity and must meet social distancing and sanitary rules set out by the Governor.

Youth sports, professional sports, day cares and a number of other activities and businesses can begin operating as long as they meet the Governor's guidelines. Dates when these activities can begin and the rules they must operate under are listed on the Governor's website.

Gyms opened yesterday at 25% capacity. Last evening, City Council heard a staff presentation on our plans for a limited opening of the Recreation Center on June 1st, that will be in compliance with the Governor's directives. In a nutshell, the Recreation Center phase 1 opening will be for members only. There will be no drop-ins nor open play or open swim. Members will be asked to sign up for an exercise slot for the desired activity. Between exercise "blocks" staff will sanitize all equipment for the next scheduled exercise group. All this information will be posted on the Recreation Center website and Facebook page shortly. This will give a full list of what activities are provided and how to reserve your time.

While our parks have never closed, we have taped off all playground equipment, and that will continue for the foreseeable future in compliance with CDC guidelines.

The Governor did not lift his 10-person gathering rule. He has made exceptions for weddings, funerals, church services and the other things listed in his guidelines. But as it comes to our Civic Center and Jasmine Hall we are still dealing with this 10 person limit. We are hoping this will change. Staff is preparing a presentation to City Council at their June 1st meeting for the phased opening of the Civic Center and Jasmine Hall if the Governor's rules allow by that time. Again, the best thing you can do is go to the gov.texas.gov/opentexas website to see what is allowed and under what conditions it is allowed.

We learned the results of the testing done at MacLean Park on May 9th by the Texas Military yesterday. Of the 99 results we received, 96 were negative and 3 were positive. One of the positives is a Lake Jackson resident. So, our total of confirmed COVID-19 cases is now 17, with 4 active and the rest recovered. We are awaiting the results of the testing done by the CHN last week at Brazosport College.

Testing of nursing home residents around the State, as ordered by the Governor, is ongoing. In Lake Jackson this testing will be done this week and into next by the Texas Military. This is for nursing homes only. According to the Governor this is not for assisted living facilities.

Rules and guidelines coming out of Washington and Austin are changing regularly as we all grapple with this unprecedented pandemic. We are doing our best at keeping up with them.

Please continue to practice social distancing when you go out, wash your hands, use hand sanitizers and wear a face covering.

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