



# Health Resources: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

May 15, 2020

## White House COVID-19 Task Force...

The Task Force was established 1/29/20 and “coordinates and oversees the Administration's efforts to monitor, prevent, contain, and mitigate the spread” of COVID-19. VP Mike Pence chairs the task force. Dr. Deborah Birx, White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator. Members who testified before the Senate: Dr. Anthony Fauci NIAID, CDC; Robert Redfield, CDC Director; Stephen Hahn, FDA Commissioner, Adm. Brett Giroir, DHHS Asst. Secretary. *See Senate Testimony by Dr. Fauci on page 3>*

## COVID-19 Cases Top 1.3 million...

CDC 5/14/20	Cases	Deaths
US	1,384,930	83,947
TX	43,851	1,216
Collin	978	30
Dallas	6,602	153
Denton	989	25
Tarrant	4,076	114

## UPDATE: PLAN TO OPEN TEXAS Governor Issues New Executive Orders

The state of Texas is currently operating on Governor Greg Abbott’s *Executive Order to Open Texas* issued in April. New *Executive Orders* continue a partial opening of Texas services and businesses effective May 1-19, 2020. Guidelines establish “restrictions” for each type of service or business operation.

### Penalties for Violation of Local or State Executive

**Orders:** Governor Abbott’s Executive Order on May 7, 2020 states: “I hereby suspend all relevant laws to assure that local officials do not confine people in jail for violating any order issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster.” Penalties for civil and criminal violations are unclear at this time.

The Governor’s *Executive Orders* supersede all county/ city *Executive Orders/Ordinances*.

Sources: [texas.gov/covid19](https://texas.gov/covid19) / [gov.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus)

## What’s Open in Texas?

Retail Services with pickup, delivery by mail or doorstep have no restrictions.

Re-opened Services: “In-store retail services” can have only 25% of their legal capacity of customers at one time. Included: retail stores, golf courses, restaurants, movie theaters, malls, golf courses, libraries/museums.

Offices: Essential business and government

Swimming pools: open with local approval.

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**CDC Issues “Guidance for Implementing the Opening Up America Again Framework”**

5/14/20 New CDC guidelines provide brief checklists meant to help key businesses and others operating in public to reopen safely. In separate one-page documents, the CDC offers decision-making too for schools, workplaces, camps, child-care programs, mass transit systems, bars and restaurants. *Source: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)*

**FDA Approves Convalescent Plasma for Treating COVID-19**

5/13/20 FDA has approved and will allow physicians to use “convalescent plasma” collected from recovered COVID-19 patients in an attempt to treat patients who are critically ill from the virus. Plasma contains antibodies against the virus. The FDA said it is possible that the treatment could be effective against the infection, although there is scant evidence to support that as of now. Some patients who received the drug have recovered from the virus.

*Source: [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov)*

Salons: Cosmetology, hair, nail shops, barber shops. tanning, and salons where licensed practitioners a trade are open with restrictions.

Swimming pools are open with local approval **Services Not Open**: Bars, gyms, massage parlors, tattoo studios, amusement venues, non- essential manufacturing.

Public Schools: for the 2019-2020 school year.

Health Facilities: Visitors not permitted in nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living or long-term care facilities.

Opening May 18, 2020: Manufacturing Plants, Gyms, Business Offices

*Source: [gov.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus)*

**COVID-19 Statistics Over Last 14 Days**

US

4/30/20 Cases: 1,031,659 Deaths: 60,057

5/14/20 Cases: 1,384,930 Deaths 83,947

Texas

4/30/20 Cases: 28,087 Deaths: 782

5/14/20 Cases: 43,851 Deaths: 1,216

**The Bottom Line...** at this time, only 9 states meet the President’s Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. The effects of the reopenings will not be immediately apparent. It takes two or three weeks for the newly infected who become severely ill to seek care or need hospitalization. “We’re not reopening based on science. We’re reopening based on politics, ideology and public pressure. And I think it’s going to end badly.” Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, former CDC Director

**Stay Home - Wash Your Hands  
Wear Face Mask - Protect Yourself**

## SENATE HEARING ON COVID-19 ... REOPENING AMID THE PANDEMIC

**May 12, 2020:** The Senate's first major hearing on the COVID-19 pandemic, heard from a panel of members on the *White House Coronavirus Task Force*. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, CDC, is a renowned expert on viruses and headed the team that conducted research that led to AIDS tests and drugs in the 1980s. Dr. Fauci testified about what steps the United States should take to ensure the coronavirus pandemic does not worsen as government officials and business leaders look to reopen the economy.

### Dr. Fauci's Testimony On the Science of COVID-19 & the Impact of Opening America

1. Dr. Fauci Warns Against Reopening Quickly: "If we skip over the checkpoints in the guidelines to 'Open Up America Again,' then we risk the danger of multiple COVID-19 outbreaks... This will not only result in needless suffering and death, but would actually set us back on our quest to return to normal." "Most of us feel that the number of deaths are likely higher...there may have been people who died at home ... who are not counted because they never really got to the hospital."
2. National Institutes of Health's *Research Strategic Plan* is: to improve knowledge of COVID-19, develop new point of care diagnostics, treatments and develop safe and effective vaccines.
3. National Institutes of Health created a public-private partnership called *Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines*. The group will prioritize and accelerate clinical evaluation of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. The drug, Remdesivir, was fast tracked and approved for emergency treatment in late April.  
**May 14, 2020 Update:** Convalescent Plasma is safe to treat COVID-19 patients.
4. Vaccines: NIH is collaborating with pharmaceutical companies and at least eight (8) candidate COVID-19 vaccines are in development. **It will take one year to 18 months to develop a vaccine.**
5. Children with COVID-19: Children have a strange new inflammatory syndrome similar to Kawasaki syndrome, which affects the blood system. Children are not immune to the virus.
6. Opening Colleges: Dr. Fauci is skeptical about having treatments/vaccines to facilitate the reentry of students into the fall term. He stated, "that would be a bit of a bridge too far."