



Chambers County, Texas

Executive Order FAQs

On April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-18, which expands the definition of essential services and allows certain reopened services.

“Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. People over the age of 65, however, are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.”

“In providing or obtaining essential services or reopened services, people and businesses should follow the minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS, found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus, and should implement social distancing, work from home if possible, and practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation. This includes also following, to the extent not inconsistent with the DSHS minimum standards, the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, as well as other CDC recommendations. Individuals are encouraged to wear appropriate face coverings, but no jurisdiction can impose a civil or criminal penalty for failure to wear a face covering.”

Do I have to wear a mask in Chambers County?

A mask is recommended, but not required.

Can I go to work?

Yes, but only if you are deemed an employee of an Essential Service or Reopened Service, as defined by GA-18, such as grocery store employees, healthcare providers, construction, industry and more. Those whose jobs are deemed essential are expected to maintain social distancing standards in the workplace.

Employers are encouraged to remember that congregations of people on any premises – either public or private – are prohibited.

According to the federal government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency guidelines, there are 16 sectors considered essential:

- Communications

- Chemical
- Critical Manufacturing
- Commercial Facilities
- Dams
- Defense Industrial Base
- Emergency Services
- Energy
- Financial
- Food & Agriculture
- Government Facilities
- Healthcare & Public Health
- Information Technology
- Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste
- Transportation Systems
- Water/Wastewater Systems

In addition, the Governor is allowing the following reopened services beginning May 1, 2020:

- In store retail establishments may operate at up to 25 percent of total occupancy of the establishment;
- Dine in restaurants may operate at up to 25 percent of total occupancy of the establishment, provided that the restaurant receives less than 51 percent of their revenue from alcohol sales;
- Movie theatres may operate at up to 25 percent of total occupancy of the establishment;
- Shopping malls may operate at up to 25 percent of total occupancy of the establishment, provided that food courts, play areas, and interactive displays must remain closed;
- Museums and libraries may operate at up to 25 percent of total occupancy of the establishment, provided that interaction function or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed;
- Single-person offices;
- Golf course operations;
- Outdoor Sports that do not involve more than four participants or contact between those participants;
- Local government operations related to permitting, recordation, and document filing services as determined by the local government.

Businesses that remain closed according to GA-18:

- Bars, gyms, public swimming pools, bowling alleys, video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios and cosmetology salons (hair salons, etc.).

Can I go to church?

- Yes, but there is specific guidance from the Attorney General's Office regarding religious services (to include funerals):

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/images/admin/2020/Press/Third%20Revised%20AG%20Guidance%20for%20Houses%20of%20Worship%20During%20the%20COVID-19%20Crisis%20-%20Final.pdf>

Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities:

Shall not be visited unless to provide critical assistance as determined by Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Can I still go to the store to buy groceries?

Yes, grocery stores will remain open during the order. However, all grocers will be required to keep customers at least six feet apart to meet social distancing standards. Health officials do not recommend leaving the house unless it is an absolute necessity.

ONLY ONE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER should visit the grocery store at a time.

Can I still visit public parks?

Yes, all public parks will remain open. However, visitors must stay six feet apart from one another. All public benches, exercise equipment, playgrounds and basketball courts will be closed to eliminate contact.

Is fishing permitted?

Fishing is permitted. Boat ramps are open for public use.

Can I camp (either in a camper, RV or tent) at Chambers County parks?

No, camping is prohibited at this time.

What if I need to leave my house to care for someone else, such as an elderly relative?

You are allowed to leave your home for emergency/essential care of family members, pets, and other loved ones.

Are restaurants closed?

No, per the governor, restaurants are allowed to operate at 25% capacity.

Are pet supply and/or care facilities permitted to stay open?

Yes, pet supply and pet care and facilities are permitted to stay open. Pet grooming is not at this time.

Are childcare providers allowed to provide services to all citizens or only to those with jobs that are deemed essential?

No, the state has deemed that childcare providers are only allowed to provide services to essential workers.

Is travel restricted in Chambers County?

Travel or movement in Chambers County is not restricted.

Can COVID-19 be transmitted through mosquitos or ticks?

No, mosquitos and ticks are not carriers for COVI D-19.

Are homebuilders considered essential industry?

Yes, homebuilders are considered essential and may continue with construction activities.

Can I still go to convenience stores?

Yes, however no food service establishment, convenience store or other retail establishment is permitted to allow customers to self-serve ready to eat food or drinks.

This includes buffets, beverage dispensers and customer self-service stations.

NOTE: GA-18 in essence only changes as it pertains to allowing some reopened services as specifically stated above. All other components remain in place.

Please direct additional questions to: pio@chamberstx.gov

Individuals who violate these restrictions could face a fine of \$1,000 or up to 180 days in jail.