



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERSHIP REGARDING THE CURRENT SPIKE IN COVID-19 NUMBERS

Dear Members:

The Abilene Chamber has received information – provided by local health officials – that the current spike in COVID-19 cases may present a revised challenge to our local economy and our education systems.

Based on today's confirmed cases, health officials project that there could be up-to a four-fold increase over time. By voluntarily adding an additional layer of protection through the use of masks, that projection significantly drops. Chamber leadership is working to better understand capacity.

The Chamber applauds the City of Abilene for not requiring an unenforceable mandate on face mask usage. However, in order to adequately police ourselves as businesses and contributors to our economy, the Chamber does support voluntary mask usage within our business community. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as they say.

While nothing guarantees safe passage through the current spike, we have watched our business community innovate its way through the crisis to date. It is the view of the Chamber that any mitigation steps that you are comfortable in supporting to help keep our economy open are encouraged. Ultimately, it comes down to personal responsibility and your chamber encourages individual choice.

Your Chamber continues to monitor the very fluid situation surrounding COVID-19 and request your feedback in our most recent survey surrounding prevention of another economic shutdown, the use of masks in businesses, and our community's ability to ensure our hospital systems aren't overwhelmed. [Click here](#) to respond before the deadline of today at 5:00 pm.

Thank you.

Doug



Doug Peters
President & CEO
Abilene Chamber of Commerce

TWC PAUSES WORK SEARCH REINSTATEMENT

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced Tuesday, June 30 that it will delay the reinstatement of the work search requirement for unemployment benefits in Texas. This requirement, which is federal law, was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the outset, TWC has stated that bringing back work search would be conditions-based.

“Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Texas, TWC has decided to pause the return of work search requirements at this time,” said Ed Serna, TWC Executive Director. “We will continue to monitor the situation and make further recommendations in late July.”

[Read more.](#)

CITY OF ABILENE NEWS CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS LATEST COVID-19 CONCERNS

Today at 10:00 am Mayor Williams and County Judge Bolts will host a joint news conference to address the latest COVID-19 concerns. The City will broadcast the conference live on Suddenlink ch 2, stream on their [website here](#), and on the [City's Facebook page](#).

[More info.](#)

ABILENE CHAMBER HISPANIC BUSINESS COUNCIL HELPS MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Chamber's Hispanic Business Council is proud to partner with Lowe's Home Improvement to help minority owned businesses keep their employees and customers safe while remaining open by providing free masks to business owners.

According to McKinsey & Company, the 1.1 million minority-owned small businesses with employees in America employ more than 8.7 million workers and annually generate more than \$1 trillion in economic output. Women own nearly 300,000 of them, employing 2.4 million workers.

“The hard work, tireless efforts and innovative spirit of our more than 300,000 associates have allowed us to significantly change many aspects of our business quickly to serve communities throughout the pandemic,” said Joe McFarland, Lowe's EVP of stores. “Our additional \$25 million commitment to COVID-19 relief expands our support of small business as we look to help the country recover from this pandemic.”

[Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Early Voting for July 14th Primary Runoff Election Begins

"The early voting window for the July 14th primary runoff election is June 29-July 10, extending the length of the early voting period due to the coronavirus pandemic. Polls will be open from 7 am- 7 pm Election Day, July 14th. The Secretary of State's Office has reported that different polling

locations may have to be utilized given the ongoing public health crisis. Voters are encouraged to verify their polling location prior to voting on the Secretary of State's website, or with their county elections office"

[Read more.](#)

Texas RRC Releases Oil and Gas Production Statistics for April 2020

"According to a report released by the RRC, crude oil and natural gas production as reported to the RRC for April 2020 came from 172,505 oil wells and 87,853 gas wells. Total oil production for April 2020 was 121,864,499; down from 142,903,780 in March 2020. From May 2019 to April 2020, total Texas reported production was 1.5 billion barrels of crude oil and 10.4 trillion cubic feet of total gas. Crude oil production reported by the RRC is limited to oil produced from oil leases and does not include condensate."

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

7/1 OPTIMIZING THE PPP LOAN: AN UPDATE ON LOAN FORGIVENESS & TERMS

Federal programs in the CARES Act, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), continue to provide relief for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Join us as we discuss optimizing the PPP loan and maximizing its forgiveness. This webinar will address changes to PPP loan terms and explain how to calculate the potential forgiveness of a loan. The event will also provide small business owners and entrepreneurs with guidance on available state and federal resources and information on both financial and non-financial support. [Register here.](#)

7/21 VIRTUAL SUMMIT: POWERING FORWARD - TEXAS OIL AND NATURAL GAS A

free virtual summit hosted by the Texas Oil & Gas Association, on July 21st at 11:30 a.m. CT. The summit will feature distinguished industry leaders who will discuss the future of the energy landscape in Texas and what is needed for our state to continue in its role as the Energy Capital of the World. See below for details on how to [register.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Fun things to do this week in Abilene](#)
- [Abilene Chamber CEO Appointed to Texas Association of Business Board of Directors](#)
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