



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

GOVERNOR ABBOTT ANNOUNCES PHASE III TO OPEN TEXAS

Governor Greg Abbott announced yesterday the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase III, effective immediately, all businesses in Texas will be able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions. Business that previously have been able to operate at 100% capacity may continue to do so, and most outdoor areas are not subject to capacity limits. All businesses and customers should continue to follow minimum standard health protocols laid out by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Effective June 3:

All businesses currently operating at 25% capacity can expand their occupancy to 50% with certain exceptions.

Bars and similar establishments may increase their capacity to 50% as long as patrons are seated.

Amusement parks and carnivals in counties with less than 1,000 confirmed positive cases may open at 50% capacity.

Restaurants may expand their maximum table size from 6 to 10 persons.

Effective June 12:

Restaurants may expand their occupancy levels to 75%.

Counties with 10 or less active COVID-19 cases may expand their occupancy limits to 75%. Counties that fit this category but have not previously filed an attestation with DSHS will need to do so.

Effective June 19:

Amusement parks and carnivals in counties with more than 1,000 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 may open at 50% capacity.

Additional Openings:

Special provisions have been made for outdoor gatherings, such as Fourth of July celebrations, but it is imperative that local officials and public health officials collaborate on safe standards. These provisions are included in the Governor's Executive Order and are also available on the [Open Texas webpage](#).

Further Protocols:

CONGRESS PASSES PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2020

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has provided much-needed relief to millions of small businesses and their employees. The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act addresses the varying needs of small businesses and ensures that they can focus on getting back on their feet.

What's in the H.R. 7010?

- Extends the forgiveness period to 24 weeks
- Replaces the 75/25 rule with a 60/40 rule
- All new PPP loans will receive a 5-year maturity. Existing loans will remain at a 2-year maturity
- Allows businesses that receive forgiveness to also receive payroll tax deferment
- Ensures small businesses won't be penalized by high unemployment benefits
- Creates a safe harbor for businesses that are required to open at only 50 percent capacity

[Click here](#) for a one pager on the PPP Flexibility Act.

U.S. SENATE RETURNS TO BUSY JUNE AGENDA

On Monday, Senators returned from their Memorial Day district work period to a jam-packed agenda for the month of June. According to Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, the upper chamber will prioritize:

- The [Fiscal Year 2021](#)
- The [National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA)
- The [Great American Outdoors Act](#)

Lawmakers are also likely to devote some attention toward responding to the recent wave of [protests](#) on police brutality, with forthcoming hearings and legislation on the issue expected to formulate in the coming days and weeks ahead. For more insight into what to expect on Capitol Hill this month, click [here](#).

CBO PROJECTS CORONAVIRUS IMPACT COULD TRIM GDP BY \$15.7 TRILLION

The Congressional Budget Office said Monday that the U.S. economy could be \$15.7 trillion smaller over the next decade than it otherwise would have been if Congress does not mitigate the economic damage from the coronavirus.

[Click here](#) to read more.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Texans could receive up to a year of unemployment benefits under the second extension of aid

"The state triggered an extended benefits period, adding an additional 13

weeks of unemployment starting in July. It is the second benefits extension this year.

[Read more.](#)

Texas' Sales Tax Haul Drops by Biggest Percentage in a Decade, Signaling Budget Crisis

On Monday, Comptroller Glenn Hegar released monthly tax-collection data that for the first time captured the fiscal carnage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The picture was grim. As expected, sales tax, the state's revenue workhorse, got clobbered.

[Read more.](#)

WORKFORCE UPDATE FROM WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OF WEST TEXAS

New unemployment insurance claims continue to decline, with approximately 4,500 employers across the region impacted by the pandemic. Over 14,400 individuals have filed claims since the start of the pandemic.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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

6/4 GOVERNOR'S SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR SERIES: BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE WITH GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT Governor Greg Abbott will join the next Small Business Webinar Series for opening remarks as they discuss recovery resources for Texas small businesses. **[Register here.](#)**

6/11 SBA WOMEN FEDERAL CONTRACTING CERTIFICATIONS & UPCOMING CHANGES SBA's Women Owned and Economically Disadvantage Women Owned Small Businesses (WOSB/EDWOSB) Federal Contracting Certification Program LIVE Webinar, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time). **[Register here.](#)**

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