



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### GOVERNOR ABBOTT ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY PAUSE OF ADDITIONAL REOPENING PHASES

Governor Greg Abbott announced yesterday that the State of Texas will pause any further phases to open Texas as the state responds to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Businesses that are permitted to open under the previous phases can continue to operate at the designated occupancy levels and under the minimum standard health protocols provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

“As we experience an increase in both positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, we are focused on strategies that slow the spread of this virus while also allowing Texans to continue earning a paycheck to support their families,” said Governor Abbott. “The last thing we want to do as a state is go backwards and close down businesses. This temporary pause will help our state corral the spread until we can safely enter the next phase of opening our state for business. I ask all Texans to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, washing their hands regularly, and socially distancing from others. The more that we all follow these guidelines, the safer our state will be and the more we can open up Texas for business.”

[Click here for Open Texas Checklists](#)

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### GOVERNOR ABBOTT ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER EXPANDING HOSPITAL CAPACITY

Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients as Texas faces an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The Governor’s order suspends elective surgeries at hospitals in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Travis counties. Under this order, the Governor directs all hospitals in these counties to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient who without immediate performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient’s physician.

[Read more.](#)

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### LOWE’S-LISC PARTNERSHIP APPLY FOR A GRANT TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Across the United States, small businesses that form the economic backbone of our

communities now face immediate – and oftentimes, crushing – financial pressure because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many small businesses that were forced to shut down temporarily now are at serious risk of never reopening. Even those small businesses that can still operate remotely face major revenue shortfalls. With little or no reserves to pay their expenses, many will have no choice but to lay off workers and close their doors forever.

Thanks to a significant grant from Lowe's, LISC will provide the emergency assistance that small businesses desperately need to stay afloat. We will deploy grants to help them bridge the financial gap, and provide guidance to help them navigate the intricate web of public and private resources now available. LISC will focus these efforts on historically underserved communities—especially those enterprises owned or led by minorities and women, who often lack access to affordable capital.

[Learn more.](#)

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## SCHOOL DISTRICTS WAITING ON STATE GUIDANCE FOR FALL

Abilene Independent School District (AISD) will continue making plans for what school may look like in the Fall with a third meeting of stakeholders discussing how to implement safety protocols in response to COVID-19. District officials are anticipating an announcement from the Texas Education Agency about recommendations from the state level. Those guidelines have not yet been released. Superintendent David Young says AISD wanted to be pro-active even if new information alters their current plan. "If something were to come out that was completely perpendicular to that I would happily reconvene that group. But you know, we're getting to the point we kind of got to come out with some decisions so people know how to plan," Young said in a conference call Wednesday.

The series of meetings has evaluated responses from a community survey launched in May. AISD officials will publish a follow-up survey in July to determine if parents or employees feel differently about returning to school in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. (Source: KACU)

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### WHAT WE'RE READING

#### Lawmakers propose new aid for oil, gas and efficiency

*"Republican senators are proposing to ease the tax burden and royalty payments for oil and gas companies weathering the COVID-19 fallout, while new bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate would aid the ailing energy efficiency sector."*

[Read more.](#)

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

**6/9 WEBINAR - UNDERSTANDING THE PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS PLAN** Abilene SBDC & MSU SBDC presents PPP Loan Forgiveness. This webinar will help you get the maximum PPP loan-forgiveness for your business. [More info.](#)

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