

COVID-19 PERIODIC UPDATE

October 9, 2020

Greetings from the offices of the Bee County Judge and the Mayor of the City of Beeville. In an effort to reduce the length of this update, we have removed information on previous daily updates. Please know that you can access the full text of all prior daily updates on our Bee OEM Facebook page.

BARS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS

Attached to the end of this Update is the revised guidance promulgated by TX DSHS for safely re-opening, and safely visiting, bars and similar establishments in Texas. Guidance for patrons of bars and similar establishments is also attached.

This new guidance offers counties the ability to “opt-in” with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to allow bars and similar establishments to operate in-person service up to 50% of the total listed occupancy.

In addition to the limited capacity restriction, bars must stop serving alcohol at 11:00 pm each day, all employees and customers must wear a face covering wherever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another individual not in the same household, except when seated at the bar or similar establishment to eat or drink.

Whether this step of the Governor’s re-opening plan works or fails is entirely dependent on Bar Owners, Employees and Patrons actually following, and self-enforcing, established safety protocols as attached hereto from DSHS, the mask mandate when required or prudent, and safe social distancing practices.

If COVID numbers spike after the bars are re-opened, the State may shut the bars right back down, so help your favorite bar or event venue by truly being mature, responsible customers.

Bee County will opt-in. The form to opt-in was published yesterday and will be submitted to TABC electronically today. This form is the beginning of the TABC-led process to get bars back open. We are not certain of TABC’s re-opening procedures, but we expect TABC will be incredibly busy leading up the 14th of October.

OCTOBER EVENTS PLANNED

October brings new and re-new events back to Bee County. First, local promoters are planning an outdoor concert at the Expo grounds. Second, the Texas Mile is roaring back to Chase Field.

These are two bits of very exciting news and we expect great turnouts at both events. But, please remember the guidance set out below when you attend these or other social events and do not let your guard down. The same common-sense rules still apply and if you follow them you are taking reasonable precautions against the threat of a COVID-19 diagnosis. So, participate and enjoy yourself but please do so in a manner that keeps you safe and is sensitive to the concerns of those around you.

GUIDANCE FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

The simple steps everyone can take to help prevent spreading the virus:

- Wear a cloth face covering (over the nose and mouth);
- Practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- If soap and water are not available, use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and
- Stay at home and stop the spread of coronavirus.

CASE UPDATE

Total Bee County confirmed community cases (i.e. not TDCJ inmates): **1237**

Total new cases reported today: **6**

On October 7, 2020, DSHS notified Bee County of 5 additional community cases.
On October 8, 2020, DSHS notified Bee County of 1 additional community cases.
No new cases were reported on October 5-6, 2020.

All new cases are listed below:

Male in his 70s

Female between 0-9

Female between 0-9

Male in his 50s

Male in his 40s

Female in her 20s

DSHS DASHBOARD SUMMARY

As of 7:00 a.m. today, October 9, 2020, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (“DSHS”) Dashboard, Bee County currently has

12 active cases;¹

1,778 recovered cases;² and

1,826 total cases (non-prisoner and prisoner) since tracking began.

The Dashboard also reflects 36 fatalities in Bee County.

Bee County is situated in DSHS Region 11. Region 11 tracks non-inmate COVID-19 cases in Bee County, including contact tracing and quarantine management. The DSHS Dashboard, on the other hand, is maintained by DSHS in Austin, and in Austin, DSHS counts both non-inmate and inmate cases together. We understand that the Dashboard numbers do not always align with our confirmed cases and, like today, might not even add up. We have no control over the DSHS Dashboard.

1. DSHS States: “On September 28, DSHS updated its active case estimate. Due to the number of older cases being reported by local jurisdictions, DSHS updated the active and recovered case formulas to ensure these older cases are not counted as active. The number of active cases now more closely aligns with the number of new confirmed cases being reported daily to DSHS. The active case estimate is calculated by taking the number of confirmed cases and subtracting fatalities and estimated recoveries. Because both active and recovered cases are estimates, they can vary from what is reported locally. DSHS uses local estimates when available. **Active case numbers do not include probable cases.**”

2. DSHS States: “On September 28, DSHS updated its recovered case estimate. To account for the number of older cases reported by local jurisdictions, DSHS added a step to the formula to assume these older cases have recovered. This estimated number of recoveries now more closely aligns to the timing of when these cases were likely first identified. **Estimated Recoveries by County** DISCLAIMER: County estimates do not sum to statewide estimated patients recovered posted on this website, as the statewide total estimates the number recovered for all counties for the current day. For the statewide estimate, the following method is used: (1) Include total confirmed cases (as posted to DSHS COVID-19 Public Dashboard: <https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>); (2) Remove any deaths; (3) Remove older cases being newly reported by the local jurisdiction (NEW September 28, 2020); (4) Estimate that ~20% of remaining/living cases required hospitalization and ~80% of remaining/living cases did not.”

Region 11 of DSHS will not provide Bee County with any confirmation or information of Bee County COVID-19 deaths; that information will be published by DSHS on its Dashboard only.

With respect to COVID-19 deaths, DSHS reports the following dates of death for each of the 36 fatalities of Bee Countians: 1 on July 4; 1 on July 6; 2 on July 13; 2 on July 16; 2 on July 21; 1 on July 24; 1 on July 28; 1 on August 1; 1 on August 2; 1 on August 5; 1 on August 6; 2 on August 9; 1 on August 11; 1 on August 12; 1 on August 13; 1 on August 14; 1 on August 15; 1 on August 16; 1 on August 17; 2 on August 25; 1 on August 28; 1 on September 1; 2 on September 2; 1 on September 3; 1 on September 11; 1 on September 17; 2 on September 20; 1 on September 22; and 1 on September 27.

TDCJ DASHBOARD SUMMARY

Unit	Inmates		Employees		<i>Totals:</i>
	Active	Recovered	Active	Recovered	
Garza East	0	0	0	0	<i>0</i>
Garza West	0	115	18	73	<i>206</i>
McConnell	0	470	24	124	<i>618</i>
<i>Totals:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>824</i>

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (“TDCJ”) Dashboard, reflects a total of 0 active inmate cases, as set out above. The TDCJ Dashboard reflects 585 recovered inmate cases. These numbers are fluctuating downward and upward, whereas our community case count only increases, which impacts the confirmed total case count, but the larger data set of total cases means that the impact of the TDCJ fluctuation is less dramatic, but the issue persists.

The TDCJ Dashboard also reflects a total of 42 active employee cases. The TDCJ Dashboard reflects a total of 197 recovered employee cases.

With a total of 585 inmate cases (active and recovered), and 1237 community cases, the Bee County total is: **1,822 total cases since tracking began.**

HOSPITALIZATION SUMMARY

As of 4:00 p.m. on October 6, 3 patients are hospitalized in Bee County with COVID-19, 1 female and 2 males. 3 of these patients are Bee County residents. Age ranges of the patients are:

Age Range	# of Patients
0-9	0
10-19	1
20-29	0
30-39	0
40-49	0
50-59	0
60-69	2
70-79	1
Over 80	0
Total:	3

Of the 3 patients, none are TDCJ Inmates.

Additionally, 0 patients are on a ventilator at this time.

BEE COUNTY COVID-19 HOTLINE AND DRIVE-THROUGH TESTING FACILITY

Please contact our Hotline—**361-492-5981**—for COVID-19 questions and to conduct pre-screening interviews for COVID-19 testing at our Drive-Through Testing Facility.

PARTING SHOTS

Make no mistake, every time one of us lets our guard down, decides that the guidelines, orders, and reasonable requests do not apply to our particular situation—every time, we become a part of the pathway for COVID-19. Don't be part of the pathway; be a dead end, a stop sign, a barrier.

If you have read to the end, thank you.



CHECKLIST FOR BARS OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS

Effective October 14, 2020, the County Judge of each county may choose to opt in with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) to allow bars or similar establishments to operate with in-person service. Bars or similar establishments located in counties that have opted in may operate for in-person service up to 50% of the total listed occupancy inside the bar or similar establishment, but all customers must be seated while eating or drinking at the bar or similar establishment. There is no occupancy limit outdoors at a bar or similar establishment. Bar or similar establishment employees are not counted toward the occupancy limitation. For these purposes, bars or similar establishments are establishments with a permit from TABC that are not otherwise considered restaurants. Bars must stop serving alcohol at 11:00 PM each day. All employees and customers must wear a face covering (over the nose and mouth) wherever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another individual not in the same household, except when seated at the bar or similar establishment to eat or drink.

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all bars or similar establishments choosing to operate in Texas. Bars or similar establishments may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and customers.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they could spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if they are 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the concealed nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including the most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate or address every unique situation. Bars or similar establishments should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Bars or similar establishments should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.

Health protocols for serving your customers:

- Customers may not loiter at the bar or in commonly trafficked areas, and should remain seated at tables at the bar or similar establishment.
 - Only provide service to seated individuals, except as provided below.
 - Breweries, wineries, and distilleries may serve customers standing at a counter if the customers are sampling products from the establishment. Groups at the counter may not exceed 6 individuals, and must be separated from other groups by either 6 feet of separation or an engineering control such as a partition.
- Groups must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other groups at all times, including while waiting to be seated in the bar or similar establishment. The 6 feet of distance between groups seated at different tables is not required if the bar or similar establishment provides engineering controls, such as a partition, between the tables.
 - A booth may be next to another booth as long as a partition is constructed between the booths, and that partition is at least 6 feet tall above ground level.
 - Tables should generally be at least 6 feet apart from any part of another table. However, a bar or similar establishment may have tables at least 4 feet apart from any part of another table, provided the bar or similar establishment uses a partition between the tables that is at least 6 feet tall and 6 feet wide.



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- As recommended by the bar and nightclub industry, keep dance floors closed. Activities that enable close human contact are discouraged.
- Pathways for patrons' ingress and egress should be clear and unobstructed.
- Designate staff to ensure customers maintain a 6-foot distance between groups if customers are waiting to enter the bar or similar establishment.
- A hand sanitizing station should be available upon entry to the establishment.
- No tables of more than 6 people.
- Dining:
 - Do not leave condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on an unoccupied table.
 - Provide condiments only upon request, and in single use (non-reusable) portions or in reusable containers that are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
 - Use disposable menus (new for each patron), or clean and disinfect reusable menus after each use.
 - If a buffet is offered, employees should serve the food to customers.
- Ensure spacing of individuals within the establishment to keep a 6-foot distance between individuals in different groups.**
 - Tables or chairs must be installed to seat all customers to maintain social distancing, and may not be moved.
 - Consider positioning an unoccupied table or other object adjacent to each occupied table, creating space to permanently maintain a 6-foot distance between groups.
 - Take orders from customers seated at a table or by web/phone application.
- Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized. Both parties should wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.

Health protocols for your employees and contractors:

- Train all employees and contractors on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees and contractors before coming into the bar or similar establishment:
 - Send home any employee or contractor who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19



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- Do not allow employees or contractors with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:
 - In the case of an employee or contractor who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual meets all three of the following criteria: at least three days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (*e.g.*, cough, shortness of breath); and at least ten days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
 - In the case of an employee or contractor who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual should be assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
 - If the employee or contractor has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
- Do not allow an employee or contractor with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).
- Have employees and contractors wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the bar or similar establishment, and between interactions with customers.
- Have employees and contractors maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If this distancing is not feasible, measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

Health protocols for your facilities:

- Consider having an employee or contractor manage and control access to the bar or similar establishment, including opening doors to prevent attendees from touching door handles.
- Take steps to ensure 6 feet of social distancing is maintained at the bar or similar establishment between individual patrons, between patrons and waitstaff, and between patrons and bar items such as clean glassware and ice. Such separation may be obtained by ensuring bartenders remain at least 6 feet from customers at the bar, such as by taping off or otherwise blocking bartenders from being within 6 feet of a seated customer, or the use of engineering controls, such as dividers, to keep individuals and/or the bar separate from other individuals.**
- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, and chairs.
- Regularly and frequently clean restrooms, and document the cleanings.
- Disinfect any items that customers contact.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees and customers.
- Consider placing [readily visible signs](#) at the bar or similar establishment to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Clean and disinfect the area used by customers (*e.g.*, tables, chairs, etc.) after each group of customers depart, including the disinfecting of tables, chairs, stalls, and countertops.



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- Clean and sanitize the bar daily.
- For bars or similar establishments with more than 10 employees and/or contractors present at one time, consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring the health protocols adopted by the establishment are being successfully implemented and followed.
- TABC staff should monitor bars throughout the state of Texas to ensure compliance with these protocols. TABC has the authority to suspend any license that poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety. Failure to follow these protocols may result in a 30-day license suspension for the first infraction, and a 60-day suspension for a second infraction.

If you have video game equipment or other interactive amusements:

- Assign at least one employee or contractor full time to disinfect the video games and other interactive amusements. **Continuous disinfecting is needed to protect customers.**
- Disinfect all gaming equipment before and after customer use.
- Provide equipment disinfecting products throughout facility for use on equipment.
- Ensure only one player can play a game at a time.
- Provide for at least 6 feet of separation between games.

Health protocols for valet parking services:

- Take the temperature of each employee or contractor at the beginning of each shift.
- Utilize the following personal protective equipment for employees and contractors:
 - Cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth, or, if available, non-medical grade face masks over the nose and mouth
 - Single-use disposable gloves that are changed between every interaction with customers and/or vehicles
- Vehicle door handles, ignition switch, steering wheel, and shift knob should be wiped with disinfectant as the valet employee enters and exits the vehicle.
- All workstations and work equipment should be cleaned at the start and the end of each shift, as well as every hour during the shift. These workstations should include the valet podium, key storage locker, tablets, fee computers, receipt printers, etc.
- Valet parking operators should employ contactless payment whenever possible.
- For high-volume operations, appropriate physical distancing indicators should be established to ensure customers maintain at least 6 feet of distance as they wait for their vehicle.
- Where possible, alternative parking options should be provided for customers who are uncomfortable with valet parking.
- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the business.
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, contractors, and customers.
- Have employees and contractors maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals.



☑ CHECKLIST FOR BAR OR SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENT PATRONS

All individuals must wear a face covering (over the nose and mouth) wherever it is not feasible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing from another individual not in the same household, except when seated at the bar or similar establishment to eat or drink.

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all bar or similar establishment patrons in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they could spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if they are 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the concealed nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including the most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate or address every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

Health protocols for bar or similar establishment patrons:

- ☐ In a bar or similar establishment, minimizing in-person contact is difficult, and wearing face coverings or masks is not feasible while at a table. For this reason, tables at bars or similar establishments should not exceed 6 individuals.
☐ When individuals go to a bar or similar establishment, individuals should, to the extent possible, minimize in-person contact with others not in the individual's household.
☐ Self-screen before going into the establishment for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
☐ Cough ☐ Sore throat
☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ☐ Loss of taste or smell
☐ Chills ☐ Diarrhea
☐ Repeated shaking with chills ☐ Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
☐ Muscle pain ☐ Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
☐ Headache
☐ Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a reception and after any interaction with employees, contractors, other attendees, or items in the bar or similar establishment.
☐ No tables of more than 6 people.



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- Individuals age 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. To the extent possible, avoid being within 6 feet of individuals age 65 and older. Individuals age 65 and older should stay at home as much as possible.
- Because of the social interaction that occurs at bars or similar establishments, strict adherence to these protocols is important. A person infected with COVID-19 may not know it, and may pass it to someone else unwittingly.
- Carry hand sanitizer, and use it regularly while at the bar or similar establishment, especially after contact with individuals outside the household.