April 13, 2020

Governor Abbott,

I would like to commend you on your leadership and dedication during these troublesome times in Texas and across the world. As you and your team strategize on the next steps to open up the Texas economy, I would like to recommend some actions that I believe would benefit Texas. Recommendations as follows:

1. **Remove the distinctions between essential and non-essential businesses and personnel.** All businesses are essential for consumers; and, all businesses are essential to the employees that need work to earn a living and provide for their families.

2. **No prohibitions on public gatherings, including at religious services and public parks, that maintain and adhere to social distancing recommended by the CDC.** Encourage the use of proper protective equipment. Gatherings unable to comply with social distancing requirements are not allowed at this time.

3. **Open restaurants, retail, gyms, salons, and similar businesses and require the use of proper social distancing measures and proper protective equipment.** In addition, these businesses should still practice thorough hygiene. For example, restaurants should space out tables and groups, remove sharable items, such as but not limited to salt and pepper shakers, from tables, and any other practices that could contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Establishments failing to follow these guidelines may result in fines/loss of licensure.
   - Capacity is to be capped at 50% for these businesses in the 25 largest counties in Texas and those with an increasing number of positive Coronavirus tests.
   - When practical, encourage businesses to continue allowing employees to work from home.

4. **Continue all waived regulations for at least the next 6 months.** Unless otherwise unreasonable and unnecessary.

5. **Continue shelter-in-place recommendations for those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions.** Because of the increased risk these Texans face, continued shelter-in-place recommendations should be continued, unless otherwise unnecessary.

6. **All Texas schools shall remain closed for the reminder of the academic year.** However, schools should still continue the use of online learning. Parents, students, and schools should plan and prepare to attend classes at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

7. **Continue the prevalence of testing - especially focusing on immunity and antibody testing.** Those testing positive for coronavirus should self-quarantine for 14 days at home unless hospitalization is required. Businesses are encouraged to assist employees who are participating in self-quarantine.
I appreciate your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions that I can address or ways I can further help in your efforts. I look forward to working with you and your office on ways to keep Texas safe and healthy, while getting back to work.

Sincerely,

Matt Krause  
Texas State Representative  
House District 93