

## GREGG COUNTY MEETS “HIGH HOSPITALIZATION” THRESHOLD, HEIGHTED RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY GOVERNOR’S ORDER

On Monday, December 21, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reported that the 19 counties that comprise the Piney Woods Trauma Service Area (TSA-G) are now in an “area with high hospitalization”, as defined by ***Governor Abbott’s Executive Order GA-32***.

This designation as an “area with high hospitalization” means that additional restrictions, including limitations on capacity for restaurants and many business establishments, will be enforced for all counties within the TSA-G area. Under ***GA-32***, except for specifically excepted business establishments, businesses that were previously allowed to operate up to 75 percent of their total listed occupancy must now operate at no more than 50 percent of the total listed occupancy. Additionally, under ***GA-32***, people may not visit bars in “areas with high hospitalization” unless bars are allowed to continue operating drive-thru, pickup, and delivery activities.

County Judge Bill Stoudt re-emphasized the need for individuals and businesses to remain diligent in the fight against the Coronavirus.

“The Governor’s Order is effective immediately. We are hoping all businesses affected by this new order from the Governor’s Office can be in place by Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at midnight” commented Stoudt.

“We should, as individuals, make the choices to wear a mask, avoid large crowds, maintain a social distance, wash our hands often, and stay home if we feel sick. By doing this, we can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect our community”, said Judge Stoudt.

Trauma Service Area G includes the following counties: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Franklin, Freestone, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Houston, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood.

Under Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order ***GA-32***, “areas within high hospitalization” is defined as any “Trauma Service Area that has had seven (7) consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients, as a percentage of total hospital capacity, exceed 15 percent”.

Business owners are encouraged to review the specific language of Executive ***Order GA-32*** to determine whether the more restrictive provisions of the Governor’s Order for “areas with high hospitalization” apply to their business establishment or not. Questions regarding applicability of GA-32 should be directed to the ***Office of the Governor, the Texas Department of State Health Services, or the appropriate section of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation***.

According to the **GA-32 Executive Order**, the heightened restrictions imposed by Governor Abbott for “areas with high hospitalization” will only return to the original level of restrictions when “the Trauma Service Area has seven (7) consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients, as a percentage of total hospital capacity, is 15 percent or less.”

**Additional Resources:**

For more information on GA-32 and its additional restrictions, as well as all of the Governor’s Orders regarding COVID-19, visit <https://gov.texas.gov/>.

For more information on Trauma Service Area G and other information on regional COVID-19 data, visit <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.

For Local COVID-19 information, visit <https://www.nethealthcovid19.org/>.



December 21, 2020

The Honorable Bill Stoudt  
Gregg County Judge  
101 E. Methvin Street, Suite 300  
Longview, Texas 75601

*Via electronic mail to bill.stoudt@co.gregg.tx.us*

Dear Judge Stoudt:

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-32, which supersedes GA-30 and GA-31. Significantly, GA-32 updates the thresholds for areas with high hospitalizations.

The new definition of areas with high hospitalizations is:

Any Trauma Service Area (TSA) that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less.

Under the criteria laid out in GA-32, your area, TSA G, meets the definition of a high hospitalization area and so may not conduct elective surgeries or reopen to the higher levels allowable under GA-32.

TSA G includes the following counties:

- Anderson
- Camp
- Cherokee
- Franklin
- Freestone
- Gregg
- Harrison
- Henderson
- Houston
- Marion
- Panola
- Rains
- Rusk
- Shelby
- Smith
- Trinity
- Upshur
- Van Zandt
- Wood

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Data on hospitalizations may be found at: [dshs.texas.gov/ga3031](https://dshs.texas.gov/ga3031).

GA-32 allows counties in TSAs with high hospitalizations to choose to operate at 75 percent capacity if:

- the county has fewer than 30 cases reported over the last 14 days, and
- the county judge submits an attestation to DSHS.

More information on this attestation process may be found at the link above.

If you have questions about this notice or your obligations under Executive Order GA-32, please contact us at [coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov). Please enter "Executive Order 32" in the subject line for proper routing.

If you have questions specifically related to the hospitals' obligations under GA-32, please contact the Health and Human Services Commission at [infohflc@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:infohflc@hhs.texas.gov).

If you have questions specific to the impact on businesses regulated by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, please visit [tabc.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://tabc.texas.gov/coronavirus) or contact TABC at [questions@tabc.texas.gov](mailto:questions@tabc.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hellerstedt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

John Hellerstedt, MD

cc: Mayors of Gregg County



Retrieving Local TABC...

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# Executive Order GA-32

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has promulgated the following criteria for a county to meet the reopening requirements of GA-32 to allow bars and similar establishments to open following current health standards. Counties must meet one of the following requirements:

1. The county is not located in an area with high hospitalizations, as listed on the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) website; or
2. The county has filed with DSHS, and is in compliance with, the attestation form promulgated by DSHS regarding minimal cases of COVID-19.

County judges seeking exemption should follow the two-step process listed below.

## Step 1: Fill out the online attestation form.

[Fill out form.](#) [↗](#)

## Step 2: Wait for an email from TABC approving or denying your opt-in request.

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### Topic tags

[coronavirus](#)

### Have a question?

Check out our FAQs page to find quick answers to your questions.

[Find an answer](#)