



November 23, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn G. Wiseman, County Judge
Howard County
300 South Main, Ste 207
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Via electronic mail to kathryn.wiseman@howardcountytexas.com

Dear Judge Wiseman:

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-32, which superseded GA-30. Significantly, GA-32 updates the thresholds for areas with high hospitalizations. The new definition of areas with high hospitalizations is:

Any Trauma Service Area 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.

For the past seven days, the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in Trauma Service Area J as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, making it an area with high hospitalizations as defined above.

As a result, as of November 23, 2020, all restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries in all counties in Trauma Service Area J are required to return to maximum 50 percent occupancy levels, except in any county that separately qualifies for the greater occupancy levels because it has minimal cases of COVID-19 under the Department of State Health Services attestation process.

Trauma Service Area J includes the following counties:

- Andrews
- Brewster
- Crane
- Ector
- Glasscock
- Howard
- Jeff Davis
- Loving
- Martin
- Midland
- Pecos
- Presidio
- Reeves
- Terrell
- Upton
- Ward
- Winkler

Additionally, all licensed hospitals in the Trauma Service Area are required to discontinue elective surgeries as set forth in Executive Order GA-31. The Health and Human Services Commission, the agency responsible for regulating hospitals in Texas, is separately providing notice directly to affected hospitals notifying them of the requirement to discontinue elective surgeries located in Trauma Service Area J.

If you have questions about this notice or your obligations under Executive Order GA-32, please contact us at 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-31, please contact the Health and Human Services Commission at infohflc@hhs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



John Hellerstedt, M.D.

cc: Mayors in Howard County