



October 6, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Trevino, Jr., County Judge  
Cameron County  
1100 E. Monroe Street, Suite 218  
Brownsville, Texas 78520

*Via electronic mail to [etrevino@co.cameron.tx.us](mailto:etrevino@co.cameron.tx.us)*

Dear Judge Trevino, Jr.:

As the State of Texas continues to respond with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that the state's hospital regions—known as Trauma Service Areas (TSA)—have the hospital capacity to serve the needs of Texans. On September 17, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-30 to expand certain business occupancy levels except in areas with high hospitalizations.

Areas with high hospitalizations is defined in the Executive Order as:

Any Trauma Service Area that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of all hospitalized patients 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 all hospitalized patients is 15 percent or less.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) previously reported that TSA-V had experienced seven or more days where the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in the TSA exceeded 15 percent of all hospitalized patients, making it an area with high hospitalizations as defined above.

However, for the past seven days, the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in TSA-V has fallen below 15 percent of all hospitalized patients. Therefore, the TSA no longer meets the definition of an area of high hospitalization and the limitation set forth in GA-30 no longer apply.

As a result, as of October 6, 2020, all restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries in all counties in TSA-V may return to previous occupancy levels.

Trauma Service Area V includes the following counties:

- Cameron County
- Hidalgo County
- Starr County
- Willacy County

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

If you have questions about this notice or your obligations under Executive Order GA-30, please contact us at [coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov). Please enter "Executive Order 30" 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](mailto:infohflc@hhs.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. John Hellerstedt

cc: Mayors of Cameron County