

OPEN TEXAS REPORT
BREWSTER COUNTY LHA RECOMMENDATIONS

As Texas begins to reopen, it is important to remember that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Although cases continue to decline in certain areas of Texas and the US, they have the potential to increase again as reopening occurs.

As people begin to come out of various 'shelter in place' or 'stay home, work safe' declarations, it is important to continue to avoid gatherings outside of your household, limit the time spent in public, and minimize the number of people you interact with every day.

The region will no longer only encompass locals, but tourism will slowly restart, and the chance of importing a case of COVID-19 into the Big Bend area will be high.

Past outbreaks and epidemics have shown rural areas to be at highest risk once closer urban areas begin to loosen their restrictions and as travel increases once more. It is important to stay vigilant for a few weeks past the beginning of reopening of our closest urban areas and areas of high traffic for tourism.

The Open Texas Report <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx> provides important information on how to continue to minimize the number of COVID-19 cases in the state. We all must take personal responsibility and do our part to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 cases in our area.

The Open Texas Report has specific recommendations for a variety of businesses and other entities such as movie theaters, retail locations, and churches. I highly recommend reading and following the appropriate recommendations in order to keep yourself, employees, and customers safe and healthy.

I've attached some additional recommendations for employers/managers, employees, as well as individuals to consider over the next few months. These may be amended in the future, as more data about COVID-19 is identified and published.

Thank you,

Ekta Escovar MD