



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

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Governor Abbott Announces Increased PPE Supply, Issues Executive Order To Strengthen Reporting Capabilities

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott today held a press conference to provide an update on incoming supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other resources to aid Texas' response to COVID-19. The Governor announced that the newly established Supply Chain Strike Force has already secured more than \$83 million of purchase orders for essential supplies. Additionally, the Governor announced that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will begin receiving 100,000 masks per day by the end of this week and the Supply Chain Strike Force will begin receiving an additional 100,000 masks per day by the end of next week—meaning the State of Texas will soon be receiving more than one million masks per week.

The Governor also announced the launch of an online portal run by the Supply Chain Strike Force to streamline the process and validation of leads for more supplies. The portal, accessible through www.texas.gov, will serve as an intake process for those wanting to provide valid leads on PPE and donations. The portal also serves as a portal for those wanting to donate supplies, services, or your time—including medical professionals and nurses looking to volunteer.

"The State of Texas is rapidly accelerating the purchasing and delivery of essential personal protection equipment and other supplies to aid in our COVID-19 response," said Governor Abbott. "The Supply Chain Strike Force is working in concert with the Texas Division of Emergency Management to secure these vital resources and to swiftly distribute them to medical professionals, hospitals, and first responders in communities throughout the state. We thank all those who have already offered donations to meet our supply needs. I urge all Texans who would like to donate essential supplies and all medical professionals who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise to visit www.texas.gov to find out how they can help."

The Governor also issued an Executive Order to better track both hospital bed capacity and COVID-19 test results across the state. The Executive Order requires all hospitals, excluding psychiatric hospitals, to submit daily reports on hospital bed capacity to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) who will then share this information with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The order also requires every public or private entity utilizing FDA-approved

COVID-19 tests to submit daily reports of all results to the local health department and DSHS who will then share this information with the CDC.

The Governor was joined at the press conference by:

- John Hellerstedt, MD, Commissioner, DSHS
- Nim Kidd, Chief, TDEM
- Luis Rios, MD, President, Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons
- Raymond Risk, CEO and President, Texas Construction Association
- David Fleeger, MD, President, Texas Medical Association
- Mahlon Kerr, MD, President, Austin Society of Plastic Surgeons
- Kenneth Shaffer, MD, President/Governor, Texas Chapter of American College of Cardiology
- David Yu, DDS, MS, Member, Texas Society of Periodontists

[View the Governor's Executive Order.](#)

(PHOTO: Office Of The Governor, 3/24/20)