



For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Irma Garza, City of Harlingen, Public Relations Officer, (956) 216-5030 office or (956) 226-1673 cell

RGV COVID-19 Hospitalizations Decrease Enough to Allow for Certain Expanded Capacity

Harlingen, Texas—The State of Texas says COVID-19 hospitalizations in the Rio Grande Valley have improved and now fall under the 15 percent capacity rate. In a letter sent to RGV elected officials, Dr. John Hellerstedt advised that the Trauma Service Area V (TSA-V) which includes Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties may now expand certain capacity levels. “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 limitations set forth in GA-30 no longer apply.”

As a result, all restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries may expand capacity levels to 75 percent.

In addition, all licensed hospitals in the RGV may resume elective surgeries as outlined in Executive Order GA-31.

The RGV was one of three areas in Texas that the State prohibited from expanding capacity in mid-September because the COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of all hospitalized patients exceeded 15 percent.

Mayor Chris Boswell says this is good news for Harlingen and the RGV but everyone should remember that a decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations does not mean we should let down our guard when it comes to practicing safety. “COVID is still out there. Thanks to everyone for continuing to use safe practices so that we don’t get shut down again.”

News From The City of Harlingen

As a reminder, masks are still required as is social distancing and no gatherings of more than ten people. In Harlingen, all parks are still closed with only the walking/running trails open to the public.

The Centers for Disease Control continues to recommend washing your hands, social distancing, wearing a mask, and staying home if you are sick.

GA-30 https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-30_expanded_openings_COVID-19.pdf

GA-31 https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-31_hospital_capacity_COVID-19.pdf

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