



For Immediate Release

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RISING COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS REDUCE OCCUPANCY LIMITS IN BUDA, HAYS COUNTY

BUDA, TX - JAN. 9, 2021 - New restrictions are taking effect in Buda and Hays County tonight (Sunday, Jan. 10) at midnight after seven consecutive days of rising COVID-19 hospitalizations. As outlined in State Executive Orders [GA-31](#) and [GA-32](#), bars must close, elective surgeries may need to be rescheduled, and many businesses must reduce their occupancy to 50%.

How does this impact local businesses?

- **Bars** - Bars that are not operating as a restaurant under Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) rules must close. However, those businesses may continue to offer drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks to the extent authorized by TABC.
- **Other businesses** - Any business establishment that otherwise would have a 75% occupancy limit must operate at up to only 50%. This applies to retail establishments, restaurants, bars that are operating as restaurants, office buildings, manufacturers, museums, libraries, gyms, and fitness facilities and classes.
- **Surgeries** - Elective surgeries, as defined in State Executive Order [GA-31](#), must reschedule unless they “would not deplete any hospital capacity needed to cope with the COVID-19 disaster.”

The following activities/services are not impacted by these occupancy changes:

- Religious services
- Local government operations
- Childcare services
- Public or private schools
- Youth camps
- Adult or youth recreational sports
- Drive-in movies, concerts and similar events
- Person care/beauty establishments with at least six feet of social distancing between workstations (see full list in Executive Order [GA-32](#))
- Service listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)

What changed?

The Governor’s State Executive Order [GA-32](#) to reopen bars and increase occupancy limits, contained an important exception. If COVID-19 hospitalizations reached certain levels in trauma service areas (TSAs), restrictions in those areas would increase again.

Restrictions are triggered when a local TSA has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients exceeds 15% of total hospital capacity. Buda is located in TSA O, which encompasses Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson counties.

[View the Texas Trauma Service Area map](#)



How long will these additional restrictions last?

These additional restrictions will remain in place until Trauma Service Area O has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID hospitalized patients is 15% or less.

COVID-19 Resources/Information

- **COVID-19 Hotline** - Hays County residents can call a hotline for answers to their non-emergency COVID-19 questions. Operators are available in English and Spanish. The hotline number is **512-393-5525**. This hotline is for answers to health questions about COVID-19 - safety practices, symptoms, quarantining, testing, etc.
- **COVID-19 Information for Hays County Residents** - Please visit the [Hays County Website](#) COVID-19 page for additional information on resources/information.
- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) - Information on Executive Order GA-32 and its impact on local counties.
- [Texas DSHS Hospitalization Dashboard](#) - The "Hospitals - Regional" tab shows daily hospitalization data for Texas Trauma Service Areas (TSAs). Buda is located in in TSA O.
- Executive Order [GA-31](#)
- Executive Order [GA-32](#)