

COUNTY OF GILLESPIE



Mark Stroehler
County Judge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gillespie County Bars Must Close; Other Businesses Ordered to Roll Back to 50% Capacity Pursuant to Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-32

In accordance with information received Monday, December 28th, from the Texas Dept. of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), Gillespie County bars must close and other businesses currently operating at 75% capacity will be required to cut back to 50% capacity due to a rise in COVID-19 cases locally and hospitalizations in our Trauma Service Area P (TSA P). These requirements are effective Wednesday, December 30th.

County Judge Mark Stroehler received emails from both the DSHS and the TABC yesterday (Dec. 28th) notifying him that due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in Gillespie County and the fact that Gillespie County is in TSA P which is now considered to be a "high hospitalization area" as defined in GA-32, the attestation that Judge Stroehler had filed with the DSHS and TABC several months ago certifying to a minimal number of COVID-19 cases in the county, had been revoked and that the county is ineligible to remain open for bars.

Additionally, the notices from DSHS advised Judge Stroehler that pursuant to Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-32 that was issued October 7, 2020, all businesses in Gillespie County that had been authorized to operate at 75% capacity due to minimal COVID-19 cases are now mandated according to the terms of GA-32 to cut back their operations to 50% capacity.

According to Judge Stroehrer, the number of COVID-19 cases in Gillespie County has risen significantly recently. However, the requirement to close the bars and to scale back operations of most businesses from 75% to 50% was not a decision that was made on a local level. That requirement was issued by the state based on the mandates in Gov. Abbott's GA-32.

Judge Stroehrer emphasized that this is not the time to let our guard down. "We have been dealing with this pandemic for a long time now and people are tired. I ask that folks continue to do all those things that the CDC and our elected officials have been encouraging all along – continue to wear masks or other facial coverings, wash your hands frequently and maintain at least 6' of social distancing when possible. I also encourage people to get vaccinated when the vaccine becomes available to us. We must work together to overcome this invisible enemy so that we can get our lives and our economy back to normal in the near future. Please help us."