

NEWS RELEASE

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City plans for re-opening of businesses, facilities under Governor Greg Abbott's Reopen Texas guidelines

ABILENE, Texas – The City of Abilene will work to reopen area businesses and City facilities in accordance with Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Reopen Texas guidelines, effective May 1, 2020.

Governor Abbott's first phase of openings beginning May 1, 2020, and will be followed by a second phase of openings, tentatively set for May 18, 2020. The Governor's first phase of openings include:

- Restaurants, theaters, malls, retail stores, museums, and libraries at a maximum of 25% of full occupancy. Hands-on exhibits at museums and libraries must remain closed.
- Outdoor sports are allowed at a maximum of 4 participants.
- Churches, doctor and dental offices, sole proprietorships, and businesses already open may open while practicing proper social distancing and sanitization.

Barber shops, hair and nail salons, bars, and gyms remain closed under phase one of Governor Abbott's Reopen Texas guidelines, but may be included for reopening within phase two, tentatively set for May 18, 2020.

The City of Abilene is now also working to open several programs and facilities in the coming weeks:

- May 18, 2020: Abilene Zoo, Main Library, and South Branch Library.
- Mid-May: Tentative opening of splash pads and park playgrounds. Opening of Adventure Cove is undetermined at this time.
- June 1, 2020: Children's summer recreation programs at Sears and Rose Recreation Centers (also known as 'Summer Playground' program). Registration for program sessions tentatively set to open May 6, 2020.
- Remain closed: Cobb and G.V. Daniels Recreation Centers. Adaptive Recreation Services will not resume until August or later. There will not be any summer sports leagues or open gym times.

The City of Abilene's Parks and Recreation department is working to determine when facility rentals may resume. Recreation classes and special events are tentatively set to resume in the fall.

For the latest information on business and facility operations under Governor Abbott's Reopen Texas guidelines, go to www.abilenetx.gov/covid19.

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