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Global Health

UTHealth®
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health

COVID-19

Reopen Texas: Return to Work the Right Way

WEBINAR SERIES

Restaurant Industry

Welcome!

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WEBINAR SERIES

Restaurant Industry

The mission of the Houston Area Safety Council is **building safe workplaces** by improving the quality and integrity of the workforce.

The mission of the UT School of Public Health is **changing the culture of health** through excellence in graduate education, research and engagement.

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COVID-19

Reopen Texas: Return to Work the Right Way

WEBINAR SERIES

WELCOME

Today we will discuss creating a safe, healthy, and functional work environment while protecting your employees and patrons from COVID-19.

The following information will be offered:

- Quick overview of Governor Abbott's executive order to reopen Texas
- Current COVID-19 situation in Texas
- Correct use of terminology
- Methods to reduce risk in the workplace
- A review of resources available to you and your employees during this time
- Q & A session with panel of health & safety experts

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health Panelists

George Delclos, MD, PhD, MPH - Professor & Occupational Medicine Program Director

David Douphrate, PhD, MPT, MBA, CPE, CSP - Associate Professor & Industrial Hygiene Program Director

Robert Emery, DrPH, CHP, CIH, CBSP, CSP, CHMM, CPP, ARM - Vice President of Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management

Kristi Mena, PhD, MSPH- Associate Professor & El Paso Campus Dean

Janelle Rios, PhD, MPH - Faculty Associate & Director of Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (P2R) Academy

Guest Panelists

Chirag H. Bhatt, RS, CCFS - Owner, CHB Food Safety Consulting

Kelsey Erickson Streufert, JD - Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, Texas Restaurant Association

Moderator

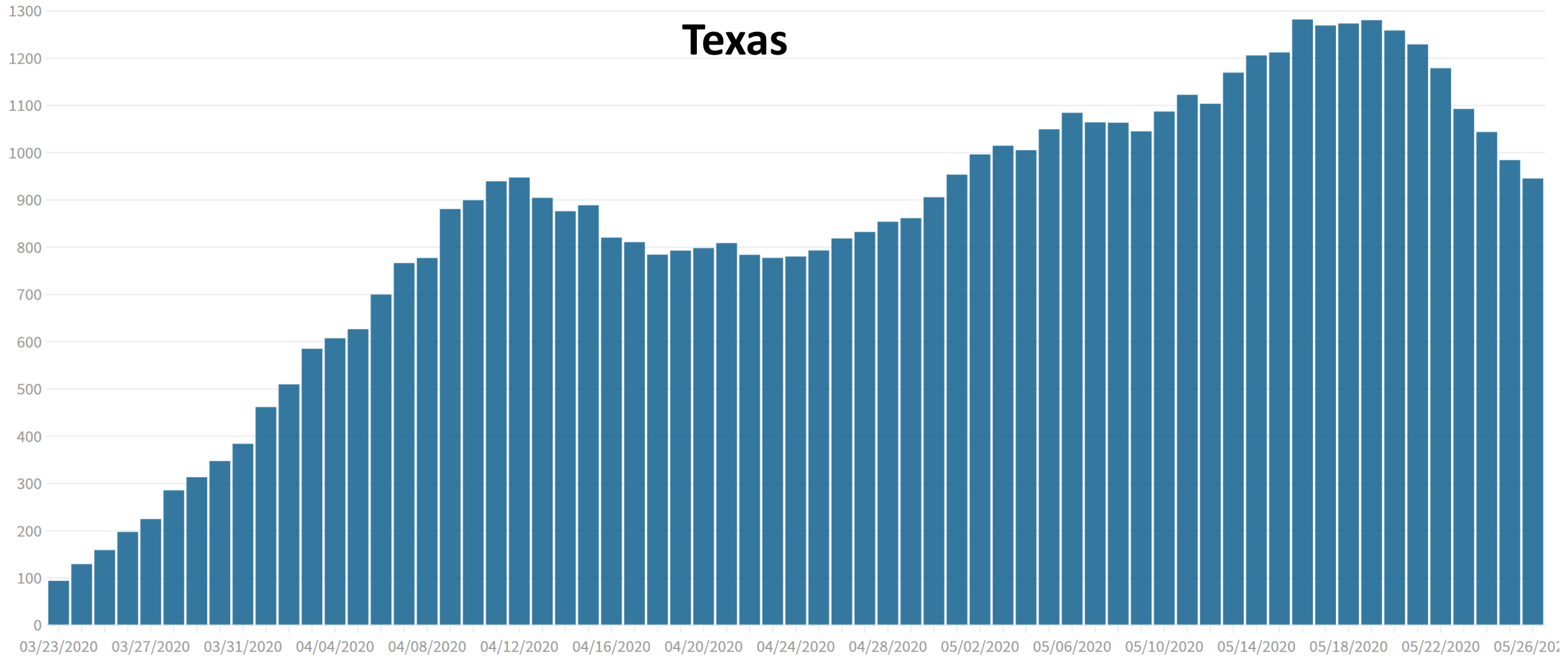Tommy Hysler, MD, MPH - Chief Medical Officer & Vice President of Health Operations, Houston Area Safety Council

7-day rolling average of daily new cases

A Houston Chronicle analysis shows a sharp increase in new coronovirus cases in Texas. The increase meets a key criteria for rolling back reopening plans detailed in a report by one of Gov. Abbott's chief medical advisors.

Texas

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UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE | CORONAVIRUS RESOURCE CENTER

Home   **Maps & Trends**   **Testing**   **Tracing**   **News & Information**   **COVID-19 Basics**   **Videos & Live Events**

World Map

NEW

U.S. Map

Critical Trends

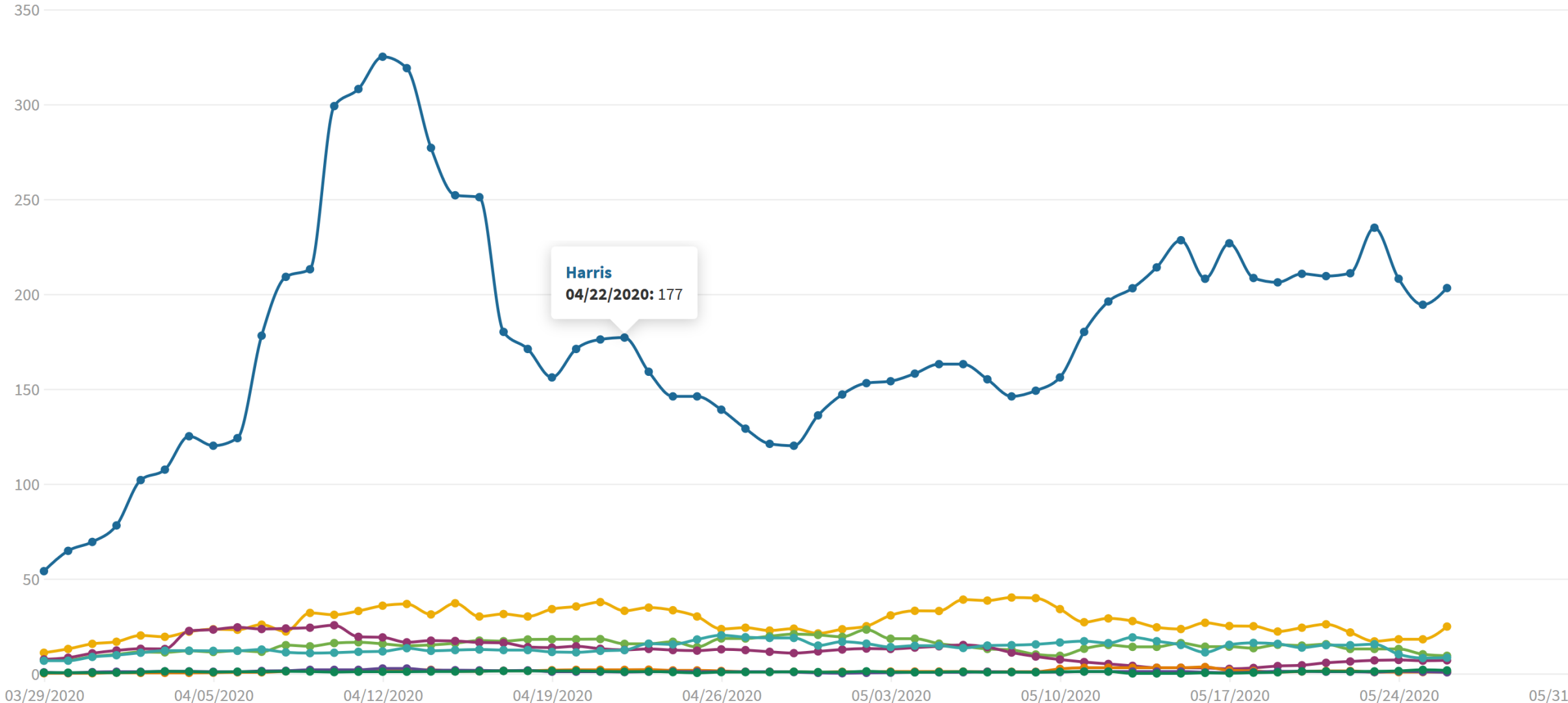COVID-19 United States Cases... | Johns Hopkins Uni... | States/Territories | Please select from list | County (or Equivalent) | Please select f

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USG...
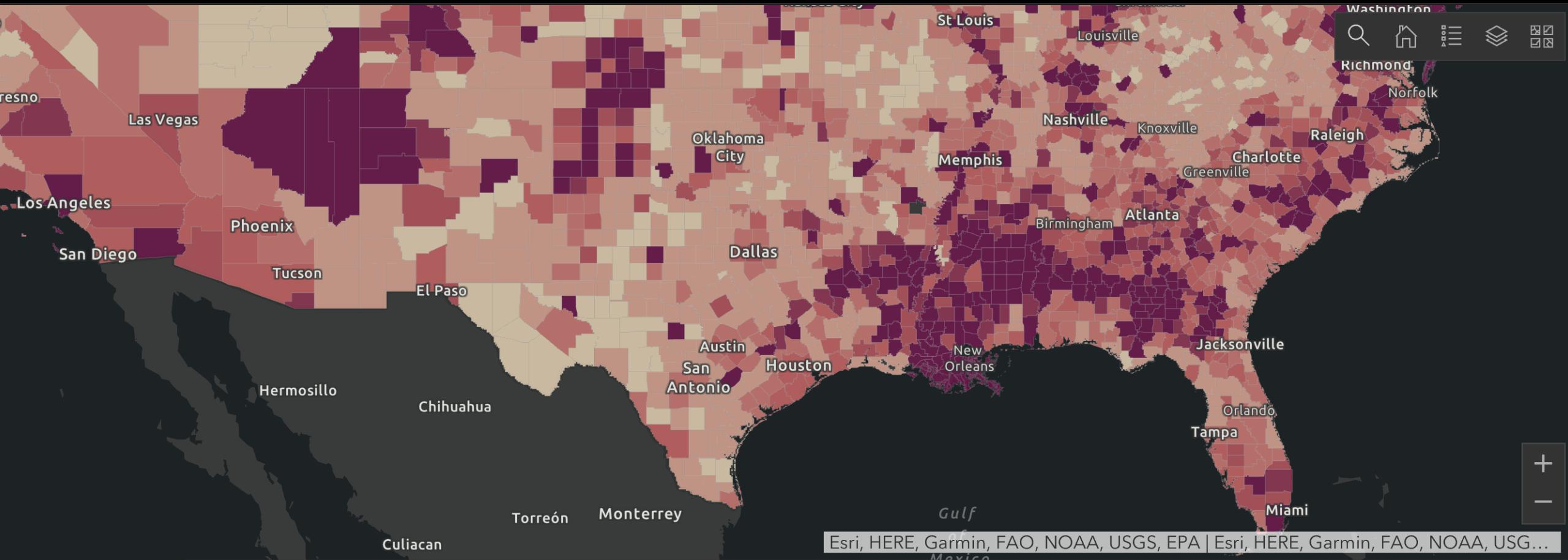
Seven-day rolling average of new cases for each county in the Houston region

■ Harris ■ Fort Bend ■ Montgomery ■ Galveston ■ Brazoria ■ Liberty ■ Chambers ■ Waller

Harris
04/22/2020: 177

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

03/29/2020   04/05/2020   04/12/2020   04/19/2020   04/26/2020   05/03/2020   05/10/2020   05/17/2020   05/24/2020   05/31/2

May 25, 2020

TMC DAILY NEW COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS

ICU & Med Surg
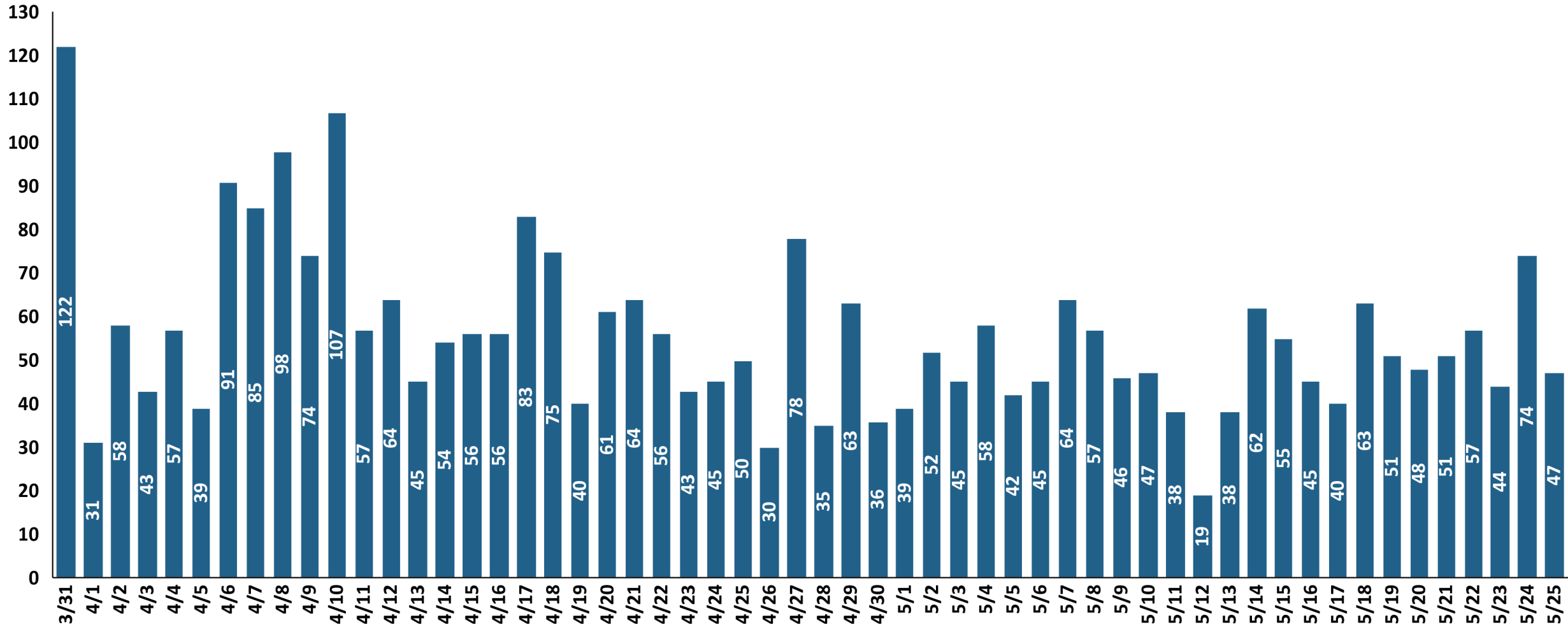
Source: TMC institution clinical census

TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

"TMC" refers to the group of individual hospitals and institutions that make up Texas Medical Center

This document is solely intended to share insights and best practices rather than specific recommendations. Individual institution data is shown as reported and has not been independently verified

5

PROPOSED EARLY WARNING MONITORING AND MITIGATION METRICS

● No concern
● Moderate concern
● Warning

Monitoring metrics	Warning signals for Houston MSA	Current status
1 ICU bed occupancy	**3-day trend** of daily usage greater than **10%** of current ICU bed capacity used by COVID-19 positive patients	● **>3 day trend of 10%** COVID-19 positive occupancy • **Current 12%** COVID-19 positive occupancy
2 Daily new COVID-19 cases	**7 consecutive days of >200** new cases and increasing case growth[1]	● **0 consecutive days** >200 new cases; growth is nearly flat
3 COVID-19 case growth trend	**5-day trend of:** • Upward trajectory of documented cases, or • Upward trajectory of positive tests as a % of total tests	● Monitoring **0 days** of daily case volume growth ● TBD pending complete testing data
4 TMC System equipment & PPE needs	• **300K** N95 masks • **20M** gloves • **1.6M** gowns	● **866K** N95 masks ● **28M** gloves ● **12.5M** gowns (disposable + reusable)
5 COVID-19 testing capacity (daily)	**At least 5,000-10,000 PCR tests per day** available for hospital patients and healthcare worker surveillance (with <48 hour turnaround)	● **7,123** PCR tests per day (maximum) • **~2-48 hour** turnaround time

1. Threshold may be adjusted based on availability and capacity of contact tracers

Note: These warning signals are focused on TMC care of patients and healthcare workers and should be viewed in full context of testing and tracing efforts from public health officials

TMC | TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

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COVID 19 Symptom Tracker

▶ Easy to use, free, secure app to track COVID 19 symptoms. Takes 1-3 minutes to complete. Includes informed consent (IRB approved). UTHealth will analyze de-identified data for Texas.

▶ Can be downloaded in the App store on the iPhone or get it on Google Play

▶ For Apple: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/covid-symptom-tracker/id1503529611?ls=1

▶ For Android/Google: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.joinzoe.covid_zoe

COVID 19 Symptom Tracking – How?

► Families <u>use the app daily</u> to record symptoms for all family members, even if they are well.

► Increased symptomatic activity for consecutive days indicate potential increase in COVID

  ► Aggregate data available at zip code, city, county level

► If many people in a zip code report increasing levels of symptoms, <u>businesses in these areas could use this information to implement additional mitigation strategies.</u>

► For more information go to: <u>https://go.uth.edu/COVIDtracker</u> or contact: Drs. Shreela Sharma and Bijal Bala at <u>Shreela.V.Sharma@uth.tmc.edu</u> and <u>Bijal.A.Balasubramanian@uth.tmc.edu</u>

Use the Most Effective Methods <u>First</u>

Elimination

- Establish strategies to prevent COVID-19 from entering the workplace
  - Employee self-screening – don't come to work if ill
  - Work remotely, if possible
- Identify and manage confirmed or suspected COVID-19-positive individuals
- Encourage customers to stay home if ill and to wear facial coverings
- Employ strategies to remove virus particles from the workplace (cleaning, disinfection)

Engineering Controls

- Consider HVAC technologies, plexiglass sneeze-type barriers, drive-thru windows
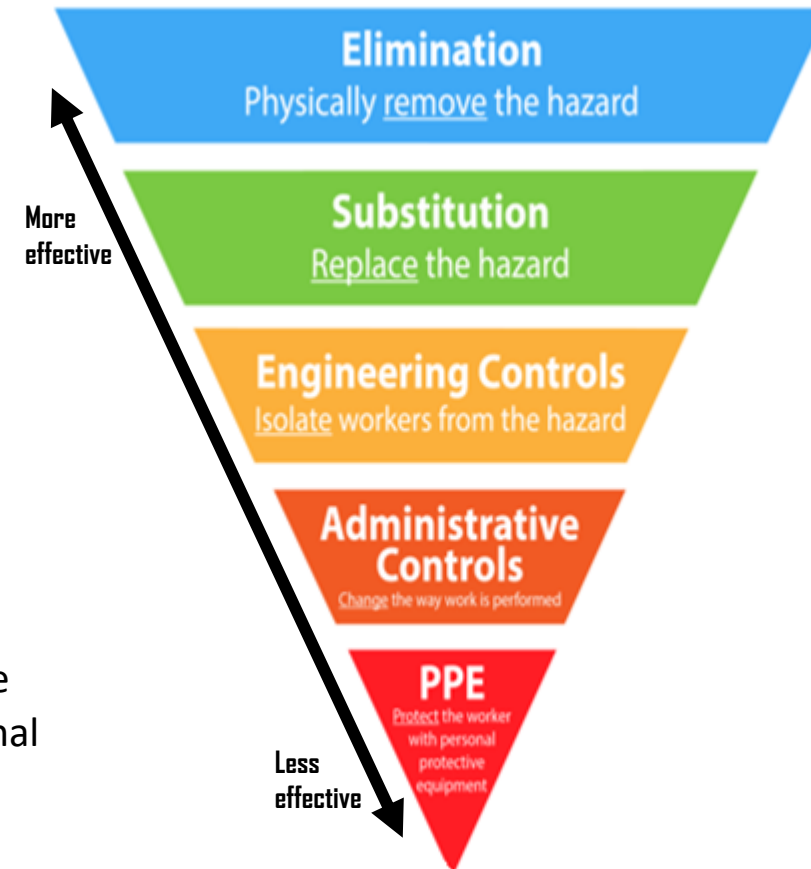- Establish social distancing in the workplace (use markings and clear signage)

Administrative Controls

- Train employees and provide supplies – hand hygiene, use of facial coverings (wearing, removing, cleaning)
- Train employees on self-screening (identify symptoms, prevent transmission) and resilience
- Consider organizing work to limit physical contact – modify shifts (create teams with minimal crossover, stagger breaks), hold meetings virtually, modify workflow
- Relax sick leave policies and allow remote working to prevent workplace exposure
- Designate a COVID-19 administrator in your company

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- Provide supplies – gloves, face coverings (masks, shields, eye protection)
- Provide initial and refresher training on PPE use, reuse, extended use, care, & disposal

Hierarchy of Controls

More effective

Elimination
Physically <u>remove</u> the hazard

Substitution
<u>Replace</u> the hazard

Engineering Controls
<u>Isolate</u> workers from the hazard

Administrative Controls
Change the way work is performed

PPE
<u>Protect</u> the worker with personal protective equipment

Less effective

Considerations for Workplace Safeguards
Potential Drivers of Infection Risks

Role of **Environmental Sources**

Role of **Improper Implementation of Controls**

Role of **Customer/Patron Interactions**

Four Key Points for Today's Discussion

1. **Novel coronavirus: the term "novel" is really important**
   - Novel means <u>new</u>, so there are aspects about this virus that <u>are</u> known and that <u>are not</u> known
     - Example: transmissibility without exhibiting symptoms – hence the need for community masking
   - R_0 value is an important public health aspect to monitor – currently estimated to be 2.2

2. **Defining "screening"**
   - Screening actually begins at home

3. **"Masking" versus PPE**
   - Barriers to transmission
     - Face coverings
     - Surgical masks
   - Protection for the wearer (PPE)
     - N95s, P100s
     - PAPRs

4. **Cleaning/disinfection and environmental persistence**
   - This virus has been shown to be viable on stainless steel and plastic surfaces up to 72 hours
   - Ensure use of EPA registered disinfectants

References

- **Surfaces Outdoor**
  - Duan, S., 2020. *Stability Of SARS Coronavirus In Human Specimens And Environment And Its Sensitivity To Heating And UV Irradiation. - Pubmed - NCBI*. [online] Ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Available at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14631830
- **Surfaces Indoor**
  - Morris, Bushmaker and van Doremalen, 2020. *Aerosol And Surface Stability Of SARS-Cov-2 As Compared With SARS-Cov-1 | NEJM*. New England Journal of Medicine. Available at: https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973
- **Cleaning Surfaces**
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2020. *Communities, Schools, Workplaces, & Events*. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html
- **Incubation Period and Infection**
  - The National Academic Press. 2020. *Rapid Expert Consultation On SARS-Cov-2 Surface Stability And Incubation For The COVID-19 Pandemic*. Available at: https://www.nap.edu/read/25751/chapter/1
  - https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.05.20030502v1
  - https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.04.20053058v1
- **Additional Resources for Businesses**
  - https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/operational-toolkit-for-businesses-considering-reopening-or-expanding-operations-in-covid-19
  - https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHAFS-3747.pdf

Resources for Reopening of Restaurants

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
    Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
    www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
    COVID-19 Guidance for Retail Workers
    www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3996.pdf
- Texas Department of State Health Services,
    Protocols for Restaurants & Restaurant Customers
    www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
    Coronavirus Small Business Guide
    www.uschamber.com/co/small-business-coronavirus
- National Restaurant Association
    Coronavirus Information and Resources
    https://restaurant.org/Covid19
- Texas Restaurant Association
    Coronavirus Guidance Resources
    www.txrestaurant.org/news/coronavirus-guidance-resources
- American Industrial Hygiene Association
    Reopening: Guidance for the Restaurant Industry
    https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/Reopening-Guidance-for-the-Restaurant-Industry_GuidanceDocument.pdf

Thank You!

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