**Media Release**

**April 30, 2020**

**Lampasas County – Beginning Friday, May 1, 2020, Lampasas County will open restaurants, retail stores, museums, and libraries at 50% of the restaurant’s, retailer’s museum’s or library’s total listed occupancy. Lampasas County Judge, Randy Hoyer said, “It is because of the quick and aggressive action, taken early by the City of Lampasas and followed by the County, to implement a *shelter in place* order and adhere to the CDC guidelines, as well as the citizens of the county to follow and adhere to the order and guidelines, we were able to mitigated the spread of the coronavirus, thus limiting the number of confirmed cases in the county to less than five and allowing our county to open restaurants and retails stores at 50% occupancy instead of only 25% occupancy.”**

**Under the Governor’s Report to Open Texas, rural counties may, on an individualized basis, increase capacity for restaurants, retail, shopping malls, museums, libraries, and/or movie theaters if the county judge certifies and affirms to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that the below listed standards have been investigated and confirmed to be met. Judge Hoyer has certified and affirm that Lampasas:**

1. **County had five or fewer COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases on April 30, 2020 or, at a later date, five or fewer active COVID-19 cases as verified by DSHS.**
2. **County has created a list of testing opportunities in the county or the area.**
3. **County has been in contact with its designated regional advisory council to ensure the community is prepared for any needed health care transfers.**
4. **The county has provided public notice to the residents of the county, including:**
   * **Signs and symptoms of COVID-19**
   * **Recommended health and safety protocols in line with CDC guidance.**
   * **Information regarding how residents can get tested in the area.**
   * **A link to the DSHS website where residents can go to learn about community spread in nearby communities, in order to help county residents understand their risk to exposure if they travel regularly outside of the county.**
5. **County has contacted each of the following types of facilities located in the county to ensure they are complying with HHSC and CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19.**
   * **Nursing homes**
   * **Assisted living facilities**
   * **Industrial, agricultural, or business facilities with a significant number of employees**
   * **City or county jails**
6. **County equipped and prepared to protect vulnerable populations, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.**
7. **County has documented procedures to be activated if a resident becomes COVID-19 positive, including procedures to take appropriate measures as necessary in line with the Governor’s Plan to open Texas.**
8. **County has contacted DSHS in order to create a plan to ensure contact tracing will occur within 48 hours of appositive test reported to DSHS.**

**Lampasas County, having met the above standards chooses to do the following:**

* **Increase dine-in restaurant capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the restaurant’s total occupancy. All other provisions regarding restaurants still apply.**
* **Increase retail in-store capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the retailer’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding retail still apply.**
* **Increase movie theater capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the movie theater’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding movie theaters still apply.**
* **Increase museum and library capacity from 25% to up to 50% of the museum’s or library’s total listed occupancy. All other provisions regarding museums and libraries still apply.**

**All counties must adhere to all other provision set forth in the Governor’s Report to Open Texas.**

**Lampasas County will continue to closely monitor reports related to the number of cases.**

**Counties that file the attestation and qualify for 50% occupancy will revert to the 25% occupancy limits if any of the following occurs:**

1. **Five consecutive testing/tracking intervals with positivity rates greater than 12% in that interval.**
2. **The county has more than 3 positive cases per 1,000 residents**
3. **Less than 15% of the surge capacity in hospitals for the catchment area is available.**

**Under GA-18, the Governor may, by proclamation, return any county to the essential services-only level.**

**Lampasas County citizens, residents, restaurant owner/operators, retail store owner/operators and museum/library manager/directors are reminded, they must adhere to all of the Governor’s Orders as well as the requirements in the Governor’s Report to Open Texas. This information can be found at:**

**https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx#attest**

**While we slowly and safely begin to return to a sense of normalcy, it is strongly recommended that individuals 65 years of age or older are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19 and are encouraged to take extra precaution. Individuals with medical issues like heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system are also at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19 and strongly recommended to follow all the recommendations from the CDC guidelines.**

**Social distancing of a minimum of six feet is still required and wearing a face mask/covering in public is still recommended.**

**Lampasas County will continue to follow the directives from the Governor’s Office as we continue to restart the State.**