



Crestline  
SOLUTIONS

## COVID-19: Texas Update

March 27, 2020

### 1. Texas orders self-quarantine of travelers from New York ....

And New Jersey, Connecticut and the City of New Orleans. In an [executive order](#), Governor Abbott ordered travelers from these destinations to self-quarantine for 14-days.

- Travelers from these states will be required to designate a place of quarantine and receive an escort and [unannounced visits](#) from the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- In a press conference, Governor Abbott said it was possible the self-quarantine order could be expanded ... *most likely to California and Washington.*

[Testing in Texas has drastically increased](#) in the last week ... from 2,335 last Friday to over 21,000 as of today ...

- With only 1,424 confirmed cases, less than 10% of those tested for COVID-19 have tested positive.

### 2. Estimated deaths in UK revised DOWN from 500,000 to 20,000 ...

The Imperial College – whose model projected more 2 million dead in the U.S. and over 500,000 dead in the UK – has [drastically reduced its estimate](#) of deaths in the UK.

- The revision cited the effectiveness of the newly implemented lockdown measures ... AND acknowledged that the seroprevalence of the disease is likely far greater than originally estimated.
- The controversial model [has driven much of the policy response](#) across the world ... and in the United States.

Today, the White House response coordinator, Dr. Deborah Birx, said [the data in the U.S. does not match the most extreme predictions](#).

Dr. Birx also pushed back against discussions of universal do-not-resuscitate orders as not currently being warranted by the data.

### 3. Other tidbits from Texas ...

Texas submitted its [request for a Section 1135 Medicaid Waiver](#) to the federal government to provide flexibilities in administering its Medicaid program during the pendency of the pandemic ...

Among other things, if granted, the waiver would:

- Expand the use of telehealth and telemedicine;
- Streamline provider enrollment;
- Temporarily suspend requirements that health care professionals be licensed in the state in which services are performed,

Governor Abbott also [requested accelerated federal funds to assist in paying unemployment benefits](#) ...

The request was sent the same day that it was announced that [over 3 million people filed unemployment claims](#) nationwide ... shattering the previous record of 665,000 in March of 2009.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton [filed suit](#) against Auctions Unlimited LLC for price gouging on items such as face masks, N95 particulate respirators, hand soap, and disinfectant wipes.

The Public Utilities Commission of Texas [established the “COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund”](#) which will provide relief for utilities that are unable to disconnect customers for non-payment during the emergency.

The fund will be financed by an additional \$.33/MWH fee for a duration of 30 days.

That is all today.