



Crestline  
SOLUTIONS

## COVID-19: Texas Update

May 13, 2020

### 1. Governor Abbott orders testing at all nursing homes; sends relief money to local governments ...

On Monday, Governor Abbott directed that [all nursing homes be tested](#) ...

In the directive, the Governor instructed the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Department of Emergency Management, and the Department of State Health Services to [create a plan](#) to test 100% of residents and staff at nursing homes across the state.

The directive comes on the heels of a similar [recommendation from the White House](#).

In a [letter](#) Monday, the Governor announced his plan to distribute \$1.85 billion of relief to city and county governments. The relief represents some of the money that the state received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund that was established by the CARES Act.

The money will go to cities and counties that have less than 500,000 residents ... local governments with more than 500,000 residents received money directly from the relief fund late last month.

## 2. U.S. House Democrats releases \$3 trillion relief package ...

House Democrats [released a new relief package yesterday](#) on Capitol Hill ... the \$3 trillion price tag far exceeds the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act passed in March.

The [package includes](#):

- A new round of stimulus checks for families ... \$1,200 for individuals and up to \$6,000 for families ...
- \$75 billion for testing, contact tracing and isolation measures ...
- Nearly \$1 trillion for state, local, and tribal governments ...
- An extension of enhanced unemployment benefits to January 2021 ...
- \$15 billion for state transportation departments for highway needs.

The House is expected to take up the bill [as soon as this Friday](#) ... However, the bill is not expected to move quickly in the Senate.

The House bill [does not include liability protection](#) for businesses and healthcare employers, something Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has previously said he would like to see in such a package.

The Big 3 in Texas sent a [letter](#) to Senator McConnell urging the adoption of such liability protection.

## 3. Other tidbits ...

Governor Abbott announced yesterday that he is [extending the coronavirus disaster declaration](#) issued for all 254 counties, for at least another 30 days.

The last week has seen a number of flare-ups of frustration regarding county lockdowns that are more stringent than state orders.

Yesterday, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sent a [letter to Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins](#) expressing concerns that some of his order [may be unlawful](#) as they violate the state's orders. Similar letters went to the [City of Austin](#) and the [City of San Antonio](#).

Relatedly, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has been engaged in a very public dispute with Alameda County in California, which is home to a Tesla assembly plant. Musk defied county orders ultimately forcing the [county to give in](#). The county did not give in before Musk made very public statements about moving Tesla to Texas (or Nevada) ... [Texas leaders](#) were more than open to the idea.

We will end today with a little levity ... Babylonbee.com, a parody website, joked ["Texans put 'Welcome to Texas' Signs Around Oklahoma So Californians Will Move There Instead"](#).



That is all today.