



December 21, 2020

The Honorable John H Gothia
Orange County Judge
123 South 6th Street
Orange, Texas 77630

Via electronic mail to jgothia@co.orange.tx.us

Dear Judge Gothia:

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-32, which supersedes GA-30 and GA-31. Significantly, GA-32 updates the thresholds for areas with high hospitalizations.

The new definition of areas with high hospitalizations is:

Any Trauma Service Area (TSA) that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less.

Under the criteria laid out in GA-32, your area, TSA R, meets the definition of a high hospitalization area and so may not conduct elective surgeries or reopen to the higher levels allowable under GA-32.

TSA R includes the following counties:

- Brazoria
- Chambers
- Galveston
- Hardin
- Jasper
- Jefferson
- Liberty
- Newton
- Orange

Data on hospitalizations may be found at: dshs.texas.gov/ga3031/.

GA-32 allows counties in TSAs with high hospitalizations to choose to operate at 75 percent capacity if:

- the county has fewer than 30 cases reported over the last 14 days, and
- the county judge submits an attestation to DSHS.

More information on this attestation process may be found at the link above.

If you have questions about this notice or your obligations under Executive Order GA-32, please contact us at coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov. Please enter "Executive Order 32" in the subject line for proper routing.

If you have questions specifically related to the hospitals' obligations under GA-32, please contact the Health and Human Services Commission at infohflc@hhs.texas.gov.

If you have questions specific to the impact on businesses regulated by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, please visit tabc.texas.gov/coronavirus or contact TABC at questions@tabc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



John Hellerstedt, MD

cc: Mayors of Orange County