



TEXAS RETAILERS  
ASSOCIATION

## **Texas Re-Opening Plan** **Frequently Asked Questions for Essential and Non-Essential Retailers**

**Q: Does Governor Abbott's Executive Order to re-open retail in Texas supersede local City and County Orders?**

A: Yes, in executive order GA-18, the Governor suspends sections of the Texas Government Code that allows local authorities to enforce local COVID-19 orders. **The Governor's executive order goes into effect at 12:01am on Friday, May 1.**

**Q: Does this mean the local orders regarding wearing face coverings is negated?**

A: Yes, however in the guidelines outlined by the Governor and published by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Employer Protocols for re-opening, they encourage face coverings for employees and customers.

**Q: Does the 25% occupancy limit on non-essential retailers include employees?**

A: No. Due to TRA's efforts, this occupancy limit no longer includes "essential" personnel (employees). Initially the Governor's order was a bit unclear on this. TRA worked with the Governor's office to establish clarity on this issue and in his May 5th announcement, the Governor clarified his order to reflect that retail employees did not count toward the occupancy limit.

**Q: Does the 25% occupancy apply to essential retailers like grocery, home improvement, pharmacy?**

A: No, the Governor made it clear, essential retailers should continue to operate under the rules they have been using.

**Q: Will Division/Corporate offices be allowed to open?**

A: Yes, all employers and businesses in Texas are allowed to re-open at their discretion. They are encouraged to use the guidelines outlined in the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Employer Protocols document, such as 6-foot distance, hand washing, sanitation stations, wearing of face coverings, etc.

**Q: What is the enforcement procedure?**

A: Local authorities will have the enforcement requirement. However, in most cases it will be complaint driven or social media driven.

**Q: If a retailer has multiple doors/entrances to their store, can they remain open or must there be one entrance to monitor occupancy?**

A: The retailer should make this decision based upon their business and safety model, but there is no requirement to have one entrance. In fact, most fire codes would require multiple exits based upon sq. ft.

**Q: Can a retailer require employees to wear face coverings?**



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A: This would be up to individual retailer. TRA encourages retailers to review the TDSHS Retailer Protocols document, which has guidelines for retailers to follow.