



June 9, 2020

SPECIAL EDITION - 13



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On May 27, our community and our nation lost a true American Hero, U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson. A former United States Air Force Colonel, Congressman Johnson served his nation as a fighter pilot in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His plane was shot down over North Vietnam, and he spent a grueling seven years as a prisoner of war.

His wife and high school sweetheart, Shirley, never lost hope. She waited for him at home raising their children and involving herself in organizations that served families of prisoners of war.

Congressman Johnson was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1984 and re-elected three times. He ran and won his seat in the United States Congress in 1991 and served until he retired in 2019. His commitment to his country and all the people he served for over three decades is inspirational, and his legacy will always be remembered.

I am blessed to have called Sam Johnson and his wife, Shirley, my friends, and it is an honor serving the communities he served. I am better because I knew them, and our state and our nation are better because of their service.

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## STATE OF TEXAS UPDATES

### **Governor's Executive Order**

Governor Abbott announced Phase III of reopening Texas last week to continue expanding economic recovery efforts across our state. Business can begin operating at 50% with very limited exceptions, including restaurants and bars. Additionally, restaurants may expand their maximum table size from 6 to 10 people.

Effective June 19, amusement parks and carnivals may open at 50% capacity. Also, the Governor made special provisions for outdoor celebrations, such as Fourth of July parades. To learn more about reopening across our state, please visit the [Open Texas](#) website.

### **Expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits**

Governor Abbott announces that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received federal approval to extend the maximum, allowable SNAP benefits to recipients (based on family size) in order to help Texans maintain their health during the pandemic. Approximately \$177 million in SNAP benefits will be available for the month of June to provide access to healthy foods in response to COVID-19. Texans can view eligibility criteria and apply for benefits at [Your Texas Benefits](#).

### **Texas Armed Service Scholarship Program**

My office is currently accepting applications for the [Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program \(TASSP\)](#). Interested applicants should be constituents of Senate District 8 and send a completed application, resume, and a letter outlining future goals to my district office (604 S. Watters Road, Suite 100; Allen, Texas 75013) or by email ([Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov)) on or before July 31, 2020.

TASSP is a program created by the Legislature in 2009 to encourage students to complete a baccalaureate degree and become a commissioned member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, or U.S. Merchant Marine or become a commissioned officer in any

branch of the U.S. armed services. Each legislative office has the opportunity to award a single scholarship each year for a college student who is in an ROTC program and meets the academic performance requirement.

To apply, please visit my Senate webpage and [click here](#) for a copy of the application and instructions.

## COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

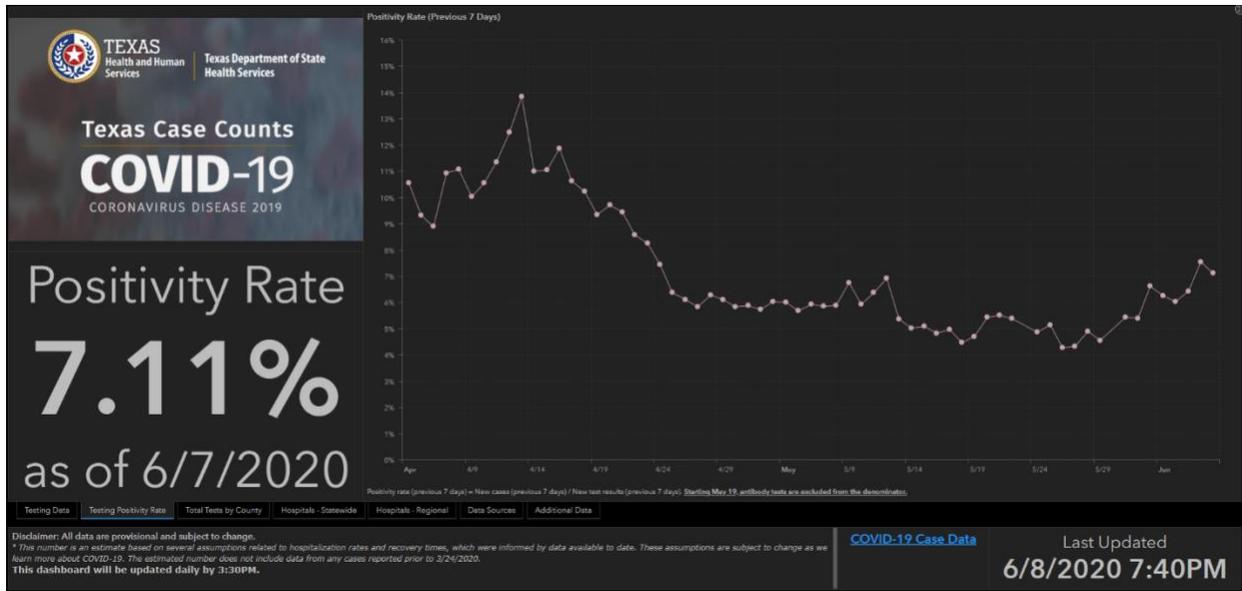
### COVID-19 Testing Sites

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) maintains a list of COVID-19 in-person and drive-thru screening and antibody testing sites. [Click here](#) to find testing locations near you.

Additionally, DSHS offers a list of "things to consider when looking for a public or drive-thru testing site," including the following:

- Do I know the screening criteria for the public / drive-thru testing site?
- Do I know the operating hours for the public / drive-thru testing site?
- Do I know if I need a referral from my doctor before I visit the public / drive-thru testing site?
- Do I know if the public / drive-thru testing site is covered by my insurance provider and/or how the billing process works?
- Do I know what type of test is offered at the public / drive-thru testing site?
- Do I know how to get my testing results?

For more information about testing, please visit [DSHS' COVID-19 Testing Information site](#).



The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is [tracking COVID-19 cases](#) and updates it site with the latest information each day.

- Texas has 75,616 confirmed cases of COVID-19 out of 1,286,139 tests. An estimated 50,439 individuals have recovered.
- There are 1,447 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Collin County residents out of 27,005 tests. An estimated 1,044 individuals have recovered.
- There are 12,093 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Dallas County residents out of 105,564 tests. An estimated 7,652 individuals have recovered.

\*These numbers are as of June 8, 2020.