



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS & EVENTS
1730 NORTH RICHMOND RD.
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488

Responsibly Reopening Texas Fairs Task Force

Texas Association of Fairs and Events Task Force Members

Douglas Borchardt, Washington County Fair (Brenham) **President, Texas Association of Fairs and Events**

Glenn Carlton, Nanci Kimmey, North Texas Fair and Rodeo (Denton)

Wes Allison, Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo (Waco)

Chris Boleman & Darlene Lively, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (Houston)

Jeff Thayne, San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo (San Antonio)

Virgil Bartlett, Tri States Fair and Rodeo (Amarillo)

Rochelle Johnson, West Texas Fair and Rodeo (Abilene)

Keith Smith, Central Texas State Fair (Belton)

Rusty Fitzgerald, State Fair of Texas (Dallas)

Dear Governor Abbott and Staff,

We are contacting you in regards to the importance of Fairs in the State of Texas. Fairs in the State of Texas support thousands of Texas jobs. Just the fairs listed on this task force make an estimated economic impact to their communities of over **\$1,083,000,000**, with charitable contributions of over **\$41,600,000** to youth, agricultural and community organizations. Starting July 11th and running through the end of October of this year, for the members of the Texas Association of Fairs and Events, 46 events are scheduled to take place. **We are asking that you make Texas Fairs part of your re-opening guidelines in the near future.** Other states such as Indiana have begun to mention Fairs in their re-opening plans.

We also realize the responsibility we will have in keeping our public as safe as possible. Fortunately, these events are held on large parcels of property, most of them in either hot or very warm weather, outdoors. We will implement the following policies and guidelines moving forward when we reopen:

- 1) **Appoint an infection mitigation coordinator**
- 2) **Increase sanitation and janitorial efforts in all high touch, high traffic areas, including ticket kiosks, and bleachers.**
- 3) **Introduce new signage at all gates and high traffic areas reminding patrons of social distancing and hygiene efforts.**
- 4) **Mark all normal heavily congregated areas with social distancing reminders.**
- 5) **Include safety guidelines as part of our advertising campaign on all media, including recommending facial covering.**

If the State guidelines need to be put on a time schedule, we would support that. The first half of July may have to have more stringent guidelines than the second half of July. The first half of August may have to have more stringent guidelines than the second half of August. August vs. September and so on. However, guidelines must be obtainable, affordable, and practical as most Fairs are not in a position to recover financially from crowd reductions.

Going forward please include us in the discussion of the reopening process. We are not amusement parks but are being put in the same category. Amusement parks are normally, for-profit companies. **Fairs are non-profit community events.** Let us help heal this great State of Texas. Dozens of fairs, festivals, and events have already had to cancel. This has caused most of them significant financial problems. Many of them will not survive. Please make us a clear and practical step in getting Texas Open for Fairs and all businesses.

Below is a link of the State of Indiana's Fair reopening:

https://carnivalwarehouse.com/newsserver/indiana-paves-path-for-fairs-festivals-to-open-by-july-4-1588291200?fbclid=IwAR0za3Zbg4KTeixhiYurnvZ9WUEmA_1grO57mG25MyxevsWfYpsjYo2zbLQ#.XrLb-JFW1iU.facebook

Sincerely,

Texas Association of Fairs and Events Task Force