



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

**David L. Fuentes**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Joe M. Flores**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

**OFFICE OF  
COUNTY JUDGE  
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 27, 2020

### **Hidalgo County Judge reacts to Governor Greg Abbott's Open Texas plan**

**EDINBURG** – Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez issued the following statement in reaction to Governor Greg Abbott's Open Texas plan:

"I want to thank the Governor for taking a proactive role in trying to balance the needs of managing the spread of this virus with the economic needs of our community and getting our people back to work. It is reassuring to know that Governor Abbott said that data and advice from health professionals are the basis for him making these decisions. The Governor also recognized that there is uncertainty with this action that he's about to take and has allowed for a mechanism to revert back to some controls should the data begin to show an increase in the rate of infection.

I too rely on data and advice from medical professionals to dictate my actions. So with that in mind, I am also considering transitioning some of our local restrictions to voluntary preventive measures.

We now know what works. Social distancing, avoiding mass gatherings, personal hygiene and facial coverings have proven to be effective mitigation strategies. As we move forward it is important that we all keep practicing these sound preventive measures so we may more quickly return to a fully functional economy."

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*Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at [www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus)*