



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- December 15, 2020

**Restrictions Implemented for Nacogdoches County, Part of Trauma Service Area-H, Per Executive Order GA-32**

**NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS** -- On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) informed officials that Nacogdoches County, as part of Trauma Service Area (TSA)-H meets the definition of a high hospitalization area. As such, Nacogdoches County may no longer conduct elective surgeries or reopen to the higher levels allowable under Executive Order GA-32.

Issued by Governor Greg Abbott in early October as part of the OpenTexas initiative, GA-32 allowed select venues to increase service capacity and permitted elective surgeries. However, in areas with high hospitalizations, any business establishment that otherwise would have a 75 percent occupancy limit is mandated by the state to operate at up to only 50 percent. Likewise, elective surgeries are temporarily prohibited.

High hospitalizations are defined as a 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. Restrictions for TSA-H will remain in place until seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less.

TSA-H, composed of Nacogdoches, Angelina, Polk, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Augustine and Tyler counties, rose above the 15 percent mark on Wednesday, December 9.

Residents are encouraged to practice good hygiene, wear facial coverings, follow social distancing protocols and limit social gatherings outside of your immediate household.

Questions regarding GA-32 restrictions or COVID-19 can be directed to the joint Nacogdoches Call Center at 936-468-4787 Monday through Friday between 9am and 6pm or [info@nactx.us](mailto:info@nactx.us).