



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on March 30, 2021

## Texas COVID Rate Drops to Record Low: Bless Your Heart, Lockdowners

Coronavirus cases have dropped to a record low in Texas roughly three weeks after the state lifted its mask mandate and reopened businesses.

“Today the 7-day Covid positivity rate dropped to a new recorded low: 4.95%. Hospitalizations dropped to a 6-month low. This week we have 1 million 1st vaccines available,” Texas Governor [Greg Abbott](#) wrote in a tweet on Sunday. “Everyone now qualifies for a shot. They are highly recommended to prevent getting Covid but always voluntary.”

On March 2, Abbott joined a [growing number](#) of governors across the United States who are easing coronavirus restrictions. Like the rest of the country, Texas has seen the number of cases and deaths plunge. Yet lockdowners tore into Texas, telling it to keep the restrictions that keep people jobless, poor, and dependent. Just like the rest of the country, under the lockdown, Texas’ economy, the second largest by GDP in the United States and [ninth in the world](#), took a huge hit. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than \$42.4 billion in unemployment has been paid out just in Texas. From March 2020 to March 2021, 7.2 million unemployment claims have been filed in the state. The Texas Workforce Commission [says](#) that’s more than the previous five years of claims combined. Most who filed have since returned to work, but at last count, 322,060 Texans were still making continued claims for jobless benefits. On top of that, Texas is coming off a deadly freeze that led to massive power outages and food shortages.



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Amid the economic recession, and considering the accumulated expertise and knowledge on COVID spread and the cost of lives [lost to lockdowns](#), the necessity of returning to business-as-usual was



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common sense — for many, Governor Abbott [included. He said](#), “We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent.” At the same time, the governor noted that “COVID-19 has not disappeared, but it is clear from the recoveries, vaccinations, reduced hospitalizations, and safe practices that Texans are using that state mandates are no longer needed.”

Those words would make many Americans jealous for not having such a great governor (yours truly included). Many, however, unleashed a torrent of criticism on Abbott. “Absolutely reckless,” California Governor Gavin Newsom [tweeted](#) in response to Abbott’s announcement, while Dr. Fauci [called](#) it “inexplicable.”

“Texas will experience more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths,” state Representative Richard Peña Raymond, a Democrat from the border city of Laredo, [told](#) Abbott in a letter.

Similarly, Gilberto Hinojosa, chair of the Democratic party in Texas, issued a [statement](#) pushing back on Abbott’s decision: “What Abbott calls pro-business is anti-people. Make no mistake: Opening Texas prematurely will only lead to faster COVID spread, more sickness and overcrowding in our hospitals, and unnecessary deaths.”

Those speaking up against the decision included health officials who got a taste of real power and do not like being disrespected — that is, they don’t want you to proceed with your lives and try to make a living without receiving their blessing first. [Dr. John Hellerstedt](#), the commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, [told](#) local lawmakers he “did not have a personal conversation” with Abbott prior to the announcement. In fact, three of the governor’s four coronavirus medical advisors said they hadn’t spoken with him. The fourth, Dr. John Zerwas, had spoken to Abbott and believed “the state mandate is in the rearview mirror” and that it was “time for personal responsibility” to take over, [according](#) to the Huffington Post.

President Joe Biden himself didn’t mince words, [calling](#) the idea the public could forgo masks in the midst of the pandemic “Neanderthal thinking.”

Yet here we are, despite — or thanks to — this type of thinking, and despite the gloomy predictions of the health “expert” power junkies, with Texas slashing COVID.

Mississippi, which lifted its mask mandate on March 3, observed a 44 percent decrease of cases as compared to the average of two weeks earlier, [according](#) to the *New York Times*.

The case for safe reopening of the economy and dropping the mask mandates is piling up day by day, proving that people can and should be trusted with their own health choices (*duh!*). Still on Monday President Biden reiterated the lockdown mantra, [urging](#) state and local officials to reconsider lifting their coronavirus restrictions and to reinstate mask mandates saying: “Please, this is not politics.” For once I can agree with Joe. It is not politics to let people make their own choices and work and enjoy fruits of their labor — it’s a restoring of inalienable rights: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” [You know the thing](#).



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