

John Hellerstedt, M.D. Commissioner

January 5, 2021

The Honorable Danny Pierce Walker County Judge 1100 University Ave Suite 204 Huntsville, Texas 77340

Via electronic mail to dpierce@co.walker.tx.us

Dear Judge Pierce:

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-32, which supersedes GA-30. Significantly, GA-32 updates the thresholds for areas with high hospitalizations.

The new definition of areas with high hospitalizations is:

Any Trauma Service Area (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, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less.

Under the criteria laid out in GA-32, your area, TSA Q, meets the definition of a high hospitalization area and so may not conduct elective surgeries or reopen to the higher levels allowable under GA-32.

TSA Q includes the following counties:

- Austin
- Colorado
- Fort Bend
- Harris
- Matagorda

- Montgomery
- Walker
- Waller
- Wharton