

## CORONAVIRUS

# DPS "checkpoints" underway at Louisiana state line, anyone entering from Louisiana required to self-quarantine for 14 days

Traffic advisory issued Sunday shows signs and traffic backups on I-10 entering Texas into Louisiana

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/covid-19-checkpoints-screenings-may-result-in-backups-crossing-into-texas/502-7e369a57-3c31-4cda-af27-0d07917ea51a>

Author: **KBMT (12NewsNow)**

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ORANGE COUNTY, Texas — Texas DPS is now doing checkpoints along the Louisiana border.

12News has confirmed that anyone traveling along I-10 from Louisiana is being asked to exit at the Texas Welcome Center. Commercial traffic, including semi trucks, are able to bypass the Welcome Center checkpoint.

Traffic was flowing pretty quickly as DPS talked to motorists and asked them questions about their travel plans.

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Texas Governor Greg Abbott expanded an executive order that requires people traveling into Texas by road from Louisiana to self-quarantine. That order went into effect Monday, March 30th at noon.

Until Sunday, DPS had only increased patrols at the border. But Gov. Abbott said in a tweet Sunday, "Now, CHECKPOINTS at La.-TX border will be used to further reduce travelers from Louisiana potentially bringing #COVID19 into Texas."

Texas Governor Greg Abbott expanded in his executive order that people traveling into Texas by road from Louisiana would have to self-quarantine for 14 days.

"DPS Special Agents will conduct unannounced visits to designated quarantine locations to verify compliance by confirming the physical presence of covered persons," Gov. Abbott's executive order warns. "Any failure to comply with this order to self-quarantine shall be a criminal offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for up to 180 days."

Louisiana State Police issued a traffic advisory Sunday morning warning of potential traffic congestion when traveling west into Texas from Louisiana.

The advisory says that checkpoints and screening of vehicles leaving Louisiana may result in "traffic backups" in westbound lanes of travel.

The advisory follows a Facebook warning from the Sabine County Sheriff's Office that the state border at Pendleton Bridge closed Sunday.

"Only essential personnel will be allowed through," the Facebook post read.

The Sabine Co. Sheriff's Office says they were notified about the border closing by Texas DPS.

In a reply to a comment about being able to cross the border before Sunday, the sheriff's office warned "it is going to change."

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**RELATED: Here's what anyone living or working in Louisiana needs to know before traveling back to Texas**

## CORONAVIRUS

# Southeast Texas law enforcement agencies enforcing stay-at-home order

"If they don't follow the executive order, then we're just going to continue to keep this cycle going longer than it needs to be."

<https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/southeast-texas-law-enforcement-agencies-enforcing-stay-at-home-order/502-84520282-1630-49f1-ab0c-e1784062ff0a>

Author: **Raegan Gibson, Tyler Seggerman**

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CHAMBERS COUNTY, Texas — For all Texans, it's simple. Stay at home, unless it's essential for you to leave. If not, you could face penalties.

With a statewide stay at home order now in place, law enforcement is prepared to crack down.

Sheriff Brian Hawthorne in Chambers County warned people in a Facebook post that citations were already handed out for people hosting crawfish boils and parties.

"We try to adjust. Some people get a verbal warning, some people get a written warning and others have gotten written citations," Hawthorne said.

He says, overall, deputies are answering more calls.

"We're all experiencing an increase in domestic violence. We've had a 12 percent increase in 911 calls and we've had about a 40 percent increase our administrative calls," Hawthorne said.

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Chief Porter says it's a different story in Nederland.

"Our call load is way down. That's a pretty good indicator that our citizens are doing what we ask them to do," Porter said.

Compared to the same time last year, the number of calls have dropped more than 50 percent.

Unfortunately, not everyone is staying home.

"We have one case here in Nederland that is positive for the COVID-19 virus and they got out," Porter said.

On Wednesday, a woman was outside and fell on Nederland Ave. First responders had to be called for help.

He says he doesn't think anyone was exposed, but says what the woman did was dangerous. Porter said a criminal case will be filed if there's probable cause.

Sheriff Hawthorne agrees.

"It's very frustrating as a police chief or a sheriff, because you know you are putting your deputies and police officers in harm's way," Hawthorne said.

He says the reality is simple.

"If they don't follow the executive order, then we're just going to continue to keep this cycle going longer than it needs to be," Hawthorne said.

If people do violate these executive orders, they can receive a fine and even jail time.

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