Texas needs mass prison testing

Editor's note: Editorials, expressions of the newspaper's opinion, Opinions, appear on the front page. The following editorial is reprinted with the permission of the Texas Department of State Health Services and is intended to share important information related to COVID-19, such as one, appear on the front page.

Throughout most of the pan- demic, Texas has ranked at, or near, the bottom among states for number of confirmed cases. The state's COVID-19 rate was at 19.5% at one point, with about 25,000 cases out of 100,000 residents. However, the number of cases has continued to increase over the past two weeks. A similar trend is expected to continue until the end of the month. All museums and libraries can also open their doors once again on May 1, but they will be limited to 25% of normal capacity. Interactive displays in these facilities will not be allowed to be used at this time.

Outdoor sports such as tennis and golf can resume. Sports that require more than four participants can continue on May 1, but they will be limited to 25%-capacity. This number could increase to 50%-capacity if the state maintains a low number of confirmed cases of the virus over the next two weeks.

On Tuesday, the Palestine community will celebrate its medical frontline workers. The parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will gather at Crockett Road and Ray Lee. The parade will be recorded by the Palestine High School Community Radio. If you have any questions, contact the Health Department at (903) 729-6232.
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The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is getting more accurate test results – if alarming – results. At the Marion County Correctional Institute, for example, 73 percent of all inmates tested positive for COVID-19. "We are getting positive test results on individuals who otherwise would have never been tested because they were asymptomatic," the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction stated.

In Texas, prisons are on lockdown, living in a cauldron under indirect, from local prisons. The lack of hospital beds and space for quarantines and isolation, as well as substandard health care, are problems facing prisons nationwide.

By mass testing prisoners, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is getting more accurate test results – if alarming – results. At the Marion County Correctional Institute, for example, 73 percent of all inmates tested positive for COVID-19. "We are getting positive test results on individuals who otherwise would have never been tested because they were asymptomatic," the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction stated.

In Ohio, at least the state knows the depth of the problem. Texas prisons, as those in most states, are facing practically unbearable conditions. The sooner the state, Texas must control the epidemic spreading in rural areas. In Anderson County, local prisons have become the largest catalyst for COVID-19. Nearly 18,000 prisoners, including 2,500 in Beto, are directly or indirectly from local prisons. In Anderson County, local prisons have become the largest catalyst for COVID-19. Nearly 18,000 prisoners, including 2,500 in Beto, are directly or indirectly from local prisons.

In truth, hundreds of people in this county may have the virus, with most cases coming, directly or indirectly, from local prisons. In Anderson County, local prisons have become the largest catalyst for COVID-19. Nearly 18,000 prisoners, including 2,500 in Beto, are directly or indirectly from local prisons.

Owing to a lack of tests, however, the numbers of COVID-19 cases reported in Texas prisons are practically meaningless. Gov. Greg Abbott said he expects a massive amount of additional testing capability by May. When allocating these resources, the state should make the prison system a high priority.