



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 5, 2020

The Honorable Clay L. Jenkins
County Judge
Dallas County
411 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Judge Jenkins:

I have been informed that you suggested to the Department of Defense—or other federal officials—that you would not be utilizing the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center for hospital and healthcare use as has been provided by the federal government (Department of Defense, US Health and Human Services, FEMA, and the US Army Corp of Engineers), and the Texas National Guard in coordination with Governor Abbott.

I have also been informed that your decision is at odds with the needs and concerns articulated by Mayor Eric Johnson—as well as the needs of other local officials in the Dallas County area.

Additionally, I have been informed by federal government officials that if you cannot make clear the acceptance of these facilities by 5:00 on Monday, April 6th, the federal government may be forced to relocate these healthcare facilities to other regions.

As you know, this potential closure of Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center for hospital and healthcare use would come just before the anticipated spike in healthcare needs in the Dallas area that are connected to COVID-19. If the KBH Convention Center facility is moved at this time, it may be impossible to obtain any other federal-provided hospital expansion facility in Dallas County before the spike in COVID-19 positive cases.

Other jurisdictions need quick access to the facilities currently set up in Dallas. If I don't hear from you by tomorrow, the process may quickly begin to move this additional hospital capacity away from Dallas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luis Saenz".

Luis Saenz
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor