



# Reporting Texas

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM UT-AUSTIN'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



## OUR BIG STORY:

### [COPING WITH COVID IN HOUSTON CLASSROOMS](#)

The reopening of public schools became a polarizing topic in late-October, especially with the surge in COVID-19 cases earlier that month.

Take a look inside the response of central Houston school districts in Texas.

## THE LATEST HEADLINES

### [Technical Issues Delay and Cancel Student Evaluations in Texas](#)



Statewide technical glitches on April 6 interrupted about 250,000 online exams administered by the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

### [Forty Acres Fest Bring Live Music Back to Campus](#)

Live music returned to the University of Texas campus last weekend for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. Forty Acres Fest, an annual concert organized by Campus Events + Entertainment, took place April 10.



### [Abbott Bans COVID-19 Vaccine Passports](#)

While lawmakers argue across the country whether mandating the COVID-19 vaccine is constitutional, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed an executive order effectively banning vaccine passports last week. This order perpetuates the ongoing debate over the best way for our leaders to deal with COVID-19.





### [Live Music Gradually Returns to Live Music Capital of the World](#)

Venues and musicians are fighting to maintain Austin’s reputation as the Live Music Capital of the World. However, while the lights turned off, bills did not stop and venues struggled to make rent. Red River Street hosts the largest cluster of live music venues in the city and is known as a cultural tourism destination. Red River Cultural District Director Cody Cowan said Austin has about 50 full-time venues and only enough city government funding for half of them.

### [COVID-19 racial retribution impacts UT’s Asian community](#)

As COVID-19 spread throughout the US, so did anti-Asian American sentiments. UT students talk about their experience throughout the pandemic as they navigate racial bias, especially following the recent mass shooting in Atlanta.



---

*“Music was definitely one of the things that drew me towards Austin in the first place, so seeing it on campus makes me feel a lot more present here than it usually would”*

*– Samyam Lohani, UT Freshman*

---

## **WHAT WE’RE WORKING ON**

Watch this week’s newscast on the Reporting Texas website, [here](#).

Check out what other Reporting Texas students have produced this week:

- + [A year into COVID-19, UT’s non-white, low income students feel left behind](#)
- + [Without Assistance](#)

Next week, look out for these up-and-coming stories:

- + A look into the UT gaming community
- + Refugee Resettlement in Texas as Biden delays raising cap

## **Contact Us**

**Reporting Texas**  
300 West Dean Keeton St.  
Austin, Texas 78712  
512-471-1845  
[katewest@utexas.edu](mailto:katewest@utexas.edu)  
[www.ReportingTexas.com](http://www.ReportingTexas.com)