Good Evening,

At 4:30 PM this afternoon Mayor Eric Johnson released new City-wide guidelines which were followed up at 5 PM by the same announcement by the County. Effective 11:59 PM this evening, dine-in services for restaurants are prohibited and bars, lounges, taverns, private clubs, gyms, health studios, theaters and commercial amusement facilities are closed. Restaurants will be permitted to continue operating drive-thru and dine-out services. As Mayor Johnson said in the press conference today we must, "act early, act aggressively, and act in the interest of public health." This is effective through March 20th, however, the City Council will vote on whether or not to extend this at their meeting on Wednesday, March 18th. Find a link to the new City of Dallas regulations here. Find the County's amendments here.

We are aware that these new regulations will have a significant economic impact on many workers and small businesses throughout the City. We will be working to find resources to ensure that everyone is safe and is able to live comfortably through this time. If you will no longer be able to employ some hourly workers, several grocery stores are hiring to assist with stocking. As we learn more about these resources, we will be sure to share them.

New Cases & CDC Guidelines

As of today, we have 19 presumptive positive cases in Dallas County. Two of these cases are indicative of community spread meaning these people contracted the virus without coming into contact with anyone who tested positive or traveling to an area where people have tested positive. We all have a personal responsibility to stay home as much as possible and only leave to go to work (unless you can work from home) and to go to the grocery store. The CDC also released new guidelines asking people to avoid meetings of groups larger than 10 people. Please take this seriously. Lives will be saved.

DISD

News also broke this afternoon that DISD will be suspending school indefinitely. As we learn more about the needs of our most vulnerable families and children, we will let you know. One-third of children in Dallas County are food insecure, and for many, their only consistent meals come from school. If you are able to give to those in need at this time, please do. More information can be found here.

Limited Testing Has Been Done

While these measures may seem drastic, the truth is we do not have good information right now. Testing has been extremely limited, and my office has already been in contact with residents who were not positive for the flu but had symptoms of COVID-19 and were unable to be tested. Many hospitals simply

do not have access to testing resources at this time. The good news is that more testing facilities are opening and our testing capacity should increase. We will have a much better picture of actually community spread in the coming weeks.

The CDC released the following guidelines for testing

Help One Another
If you are young, healthy and able, we encourage you to help other residents who are at high risk. Meals on Wheels is always looking for volunteers to deliver meals to our more vulnerable residents. Please visit their website to sign up to volunteer.

Check with your church or leave a note on Nextdoor volunteering a few hours a week to run to the store for your vulnerable neighbors.

Financial Assistance

- For Dallas Water Utilities customers that have been financially impacted due to COVID-19, a 30-day hold will be put on their account without service interruption.
- Atmos Energy has a program, "Sharing the Warmth" to aid customers who are being financially impacted by COVID-19. To apply for the program, customers should visit this website

People Who Visited the Following CO Ski Resorts: Eagle, Summit, Pitkin or Gunnison
There have been several known cases of COVID-19 in these areas. The CO government recommends self-isolation for 14 days after returning from traveling to these locations. More information can be found here.

Additional Guidance from Dallas County Health & Human Services
If you believe you may be at risk of infection with COVID-19 and you develop symptoms, call ahead to a healthcare provider for additional guidance. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional about your recent travel or contact. Your healthcare professional may work with the county public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

Texas Department of State Health Services has advised if you do not have health insurance, you should contact a hospital's emergency department. You are strongly advised to call ahead to the hospital to ensure medical staff can properly isolate any potential COVID-19 cases.

COVID -19 FAQS (English)

COVID - 19 FAQS (Spanish)

For detailed information regarding the coronavirus, please visit theCDC website.

Dallas County Health and Human Services is the centralized resource for health safety in Dallas County. Please visit their website for more information. The City of Dallas has additional information on their website.

John Hopkins University created this interactive map to track the coronavirus world-wide. Find the desktop version here and the mobile version here.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my Council Liaison, Sarah Evans, by phone at 214-670-3816 or email at sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com.

Jennifer S. Gates
Councilmember District 13
City of Dallas | www.dallascityhall.com
1500 Marilla St 5FS
Dallas, TX 75201
O: (214) 670-3816