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City of Dallas

REVISED: Equity and Inclusion Newsletter

April 9, 2020 | Issue 2

A Message From the City Manager and Chief of Equity and Inclusion

Dear Fellow Dallas Residents,

In our current situation of COVID-19, we understand this can be a challenging time for many for our community members. As this pandemic plays out in Dallas and worldwide, we are committed to keeping our community safe and healthy for all residents. Your voice is valued.

This newsletter will help keep our residents informed about the different programs and initiatives that are taking place, assisting with difficult transitions that Dallas residents may face. As we receive more information, we will continue to update you.

En Español

To access the City of Dallas Equity and Inclusion Newsletter in Spanish click the button down below.

[En Español](#)

We understand during this difficult time small businesses will be heavily impacted. In this issue of the newsletter we ask if you are a small business to take our survey to help us understand the impact COVID-19.

You should feel welcome regardless of your documentation status in accessing city services offered to residents in these times of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion

Safer at Home Order

Effective Thursday, April 2nd, at 11:59 pm, all Dallas individuals living within Dallas County are ordered to shelter at their place of residence. The Order allows people to leave their homes for outdoor walks, to get necessary items like medicine and groceries, and to care for a sick relative, but otherwise must stay in their households. Essential businesses, including hospitals, senior residential centers, and childcare for those employees, may continue in-person operations.

Amended Order as of April 2nd:

- Prohibits employers to require a negative COVID-19 test before the recovered employee can return to work. This rule is to lift the burden on healthcare facilities.

Amended Rules for construction and trades industries:

- There will not be any retaliation to employees who have possible exposure to COVID-19. If the employee has been in quarantine; has not reported to work due to a temperature of 99.6 Fahrenheit or above, or has requested paid sick leave under their employer's policy.

To learn more about the additional protection measures the [full Order](#)

COVID-19 Testing Sites and Criteria

There are two COVID-19 testing sites in Dallas.

Criteria for testing sites is as follows:

- Shortness of breath
- Cough

- Must show a temperature of 99.6 or higher

The sites operate daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are located at:

- American Airlines Center, Parking Lot E, 2500 Victory Plaza
- Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S Polk St.

If you meet the three criteria for COVID-19 testing, please do not delay acting. Any photo ID is sufficient including a recreation center ID, a Student ID, an ID with your name and photo. It does not need to be a government-issued ID.

For more information contact OEMdepartment@dallascityhall.com

In this Newsletter

Federal Information:

- CARES Act
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce CARES Act Small Business Guide
- Federal Actions to Expand Telehealth services
- Census 2020

Local (Dallas) Information:

- Small Business Support
- Local Telehealth Access
- Tenant Support
- Parks and Trails (REVISED)
- City Council's Historic Vote (REVISED)
- Dallas Water Utilities
- Dallas ISD Meals

Federal Information

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Congress has recently passed the CARES Act to help small businesses across the country with aid programs to ease the burden during COVID-19. The two main programs are the **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** and **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)**. To see which program your business may qualify for and apply for a loan, check the [Small Business Associations webpage](#).

- (PPP): allows borrowing up to \$10 million to help cover payroll expenses, employee salaries, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.
- (EIDL): allows borrowing up to \$2million helps cover payroll expenses, fixed debts, and other costs that cannot be paid due to COVID-19.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce CARES Act Small Business Guide

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has created a guide to help businesses owners understand their eligibility for the program. It breaks down requirements for borrowing, how to calculate payroll costs, loan forgiveness.

To view this guide [click here](#) and visit the [U.S. of Chamber of Commerce](#) website for more information.

What is Telehealth?

Telehealth is the issuing of health-related services to patients through the internet and communication devices like video chat or phone calls. This practice promotes social distancing and helps healthcare providers to reach a wider patient base.

Federal Efforts for Telehealth

- Medicare restrictions in under served communities are being lifted. [The Federal Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics](#) can now provide telehealth services.
- To find a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center near you, go to the [Find a Health Care Center](#) page and enter in your location.



Census 2020

The 2020 Census is still open. It takes less than 10 minutes and it has never been easier. Residents can still fill out their Census 2020 forms [online](#).

Dallas Local Information

Small Business Support

Along with the support from the federal government, the Dallas area also has support programs to help fellow community-based businesses.

- AssistHer Relief Grant Program by Texas Women’s University: Texas Women’s University has a grant program to help women-run businesses impacted due to COVID-19.
- DreamSpring: For relief on an active loan.

To learn more visit the [Dallas Economic Development Page](#).

Help us understand the impact of COVID-19 on your business. Fill out [our survey](#) from [Dallas Economic Development](#) all submissions will be kept confidential.

Local Telehealth Access

- The City has created an [online hub](#) to help residents find local reduced to no-cost health resources in their area.
- The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority has developed a **COVID-19 mental health support line** to provide informed support, trauma, psychological first aid to those experiencing stress and anxiety.
- The Texas State Department of Health Services has medical help access for finding a doctor or medical care provider for a low to no cost.
- Family Medical Services, by Agape Clinic Inc, a charity medical clinic, will be **making free telephone-based appointments**.



**ACCESS LOCAL
TELEHEALTH**

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- The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority: **833-251-7544**
- Texas State Department of Health Services: **2-1-1**
- Family Medical Services by Agape Clinic Inc: **972-707-7782**

Tenant Support

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Texas Supreme Court has issued an emergency order blocking most eviction hearings and trials. The State of Texas and Dallas County have issued eviction moratoriums to assist tenants during COVID-19. The Justice of the Peace Courts will not hold eviction proceedings until May 18, 2020.

- The exception of the imminent threat of physical harm or criminal activity can proceed with regular eviction hearings.
- Late rent fees cap at \$15 per month.

For more information about what counts as an eviction, visit [Texas Law Help](#).

Need Renter's Advice?

Dallas lawyers are volunteering to answering renters questions for free.

Anyone with questions can contact at:
dallasevictions2020@gmail.com



Please Note

An Eviction Moratorium does NOT waive rent payment obligations.

If you are facing financial distress and issues paying rent due to the COVID-19 crisis, please contact your landlord to relay the situation immediately.



Parks and Trails (REVISED)

The City of Dallas will close its parks during Easter weekend to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The parks will shut down at 9 p.m. on Friday, April 10 and will reopen to the public at 7 a.m. on Monday, April 13. Trails will remain open.

Effective Saturday, March 23rd, 2020, Dallas Park and Recreation Centers and facilities will be closed. This includes athletic fields that will be closed to reservations and organized play. Playgrounds, golf courses, and tennis centers will be closed until further notice. Open-air parks and trails will remain open though residents must still practice social distancing. Park Rangers will be monitoring parks and trail usage

to ensure compliance of the 6' ft safe distance requirement.

Parks and Trails that are still open during COVID-19

- Campbell Green Park
- Five Mile Trail
- Harry Stone Park

There are many other beautiful parks in the Dallas area. Check out the Parks and Recreation's [secret parks list](#).

For maps and the different types of trails visit [Dallas Parks and Recreation Trails](#).

Please visit [DallasParks.org](#) for updates about Dallas Park and Recreation closures.

City Council's Historic Vote (REVISED)

On April 8, the Dallas City Council passed an amendment to the Dallas City Code that broadens the eligibility for residents to serve on advisory boards and commissions. Councilman Jaime Resendez (District 5) presented an amendment to remove the requirement to *"be a qualified voter in the city at the time of appointment"* (Dallas City Code, Chapter 8, Sec. 8-1.4).

In making his motion, Resendez cited the Dallas City Charter, Chapter 24, Section 13(d) which reads: *It is the policy of the city to include persons of all races and ethnicity in the affairs of city government. Accordingly, the city council shall as nearly as may be practicable, cause the membership of commissions and boards to reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the city's population.*

Noting that the current makeup of board and commission members does not reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the city, Resendez' motion was intended to more equitably balance representation, and the City Council agreed.

For more information about the Charter, visit [Dallas City Charter Chapter 24](#).

Dallas Water Utilities

The Dallas Water Utilities will be suspending late fees and water disconnections until further notice.

For More information visit [Dallas Water Utilities](#).

Dallas ISD Meals

Dallas ISD will be serving a week worth of free grab and go meals every Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm.

For more information and locations to pick up meals visit [Dallas ISD Food and Nutrition Services](#).



For More Information and Resources

[Dallas City Hall Webpage](#)

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