



Good afternoon,

I hope you and yours are safe and well. As things are changing quickly, my office will continue to send out daily updates until the onslaught of information slows. For now, these will be dense. Pick and choose the information you need from these digests. As always, my office is here for you. Reach out if you need us.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate some good news. Due to your incredible generosity the Vickery Meadow Food Pantry was able to raise approximately \$15,000 from 80 individuals in under 24 hours. I'm so grateful to all of you who donated. It will go to help numerous families in need. If you are still interested in giving, donate directly to this food pantry through the [Vickery Meadow Youth Foundation website](#). Select "Donate" and under "Additional Information" select "Coronavirus Response." 100% of donations to this category will go directly to the food pantry.

Dallas County Health and Human Services reported an additional 19 positive cases today, bringing the total in Dallas County to 74. At this time, Dallas County is not sharing census tracts or zip codes of confirmed cases. We have also heard that there will be two new regional testing centers opening soon. At this time we have heard it will be for residents who are 65 and above. As soon as we have more details, we will share them with you.

Below are numbers as of close of business yesterday, March 19th:

- Total Tests to date by DCHHS - 161
- Total Tests to date private labs - 317*
- Total Negative tests to date - 298
- Total pending tests - 382
- Total active cases - 55
- Total deaths - 1
- Total recovered - 2

*Numbers as of March 13, 2020 to date, since the Mayor's order went into effect

In this email, you will find a list of resources available as of today regarding finances and COVID-19 topics such as unemployment, paying rent and mortgages, student loans, utilities, food assistance, resources for business and more. This will remain a living document. Grocery stores, pharmacies, daycare centers, banks, and hardware stores will remain open. Restaurants may still operate take-out and delivery services and may also serve cocktail, beer and wine to go.

I encourage you to support your local businesses. The Mayor & City Council office has started a new initiative called Take-Out Tuesday. Please use this [link](#) to access an evolving list of restaurants in D13 and across the City who are open for take-out and delivery. If we are missing a restaurant, please let us know! We would like to

include as many businesses as possible.

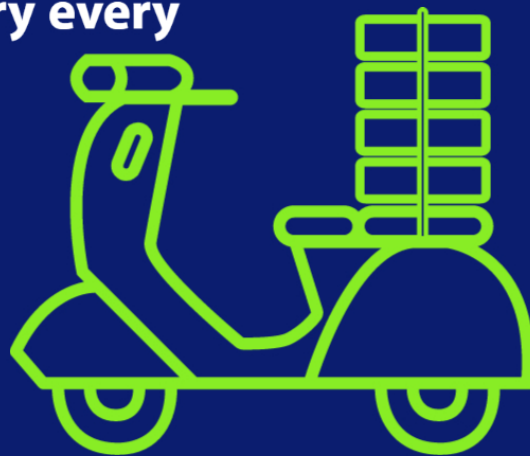
TAKE-OUT TUESDAYS

**Support local businesses
and restaurants by ordering
take-out or delivery every
Tuesday**

A list* of restaurants
open for grab-n-go
can be found at
www.visitdallas.com

***list is continually updated**

www.dallascityhall.com



Below is the comprehensive list we sent out yesterday with several new resources. New resources are in italics.

Additionally, VisitDallas has compiled a list to feature Dallas restaurants who are still operating and offering home delivery.

We continue to provide information at the City's dedicated website [here](#). Dallas County also has valuable information [here](#).

Bored at Home?

VisitDallas created a list of virtual activities launched by many of our great cultural organizations such as the DMA, the Nasher, the Arboretum and many more! Check them out [here](#). The Dallas Theater Center is offering a virtual performance of American Mariachi for a small donation. Check it out [here](#).

City of Dallas Parks, Tennis Courts and Golf Courses Closed & Libraries, Cultural Centers and City Parks Closed Indefinitely

Effective on the end of day Tuesday, March 17th, City of Dallas Parks, Tennis Courts and Golf Courses are closed while local disaster regulations are in place. It was just announced this afternoon that libraries, cultural centers, and city parks will remain closed indefinitely.

3-1-1 Emergency Violation Service Request

Please be advised, 311 has created a new service request type that residents can use to report violations of the recently announced, and soon-to-be effective, emergency community gathering regulations. The new service request is called "Emergency Regulations Violation" and will be available by calling 311, using the OurDallas mobile application, and/or online via the City's web portal. Residents may include their contact information or they may choose to submit the report anonymously.

Unemployment and Workers' Comp

- Anyone who has lost their job due to coronavirus or has had to take time off to self-quarantine or care for a sick relative (and does not get paid sick time from work) may apply for UNEMPLOYMENT benefits. Info on that [here](#). Governor Abbott has suspended the waiting period for unemployment benefits.
- Anyone whose job has brought them into direct contact with someone with coronavirus (for instance, a first responder or a health care worker) and has become ill or are required to quarantine can file for WORKERS' COMP. File for that [here](#).
- If you or a friend or family member are out of work, the Texas Workforce Commission provides support services as well.

Financial Assistance

- The U.S. Department of Treasury has a list of [financial resources](#) for consumers.
- *The IRS has deferred the federal tax filing deadline to July 15th. Find more information on Coronavirus tax relief [here](#).*
- *Residents can call 211 and give their zip code for a list of local financial and in-kind resources available in their area.*

Trouble Paying Rent or Mortgage

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins issued an order providing guidance to the [Justice's of the Peace](#) to suspend evictions for 60 days. This includes ALL evictions - residential, commercial, and industrial.

The federal government announced they are suspending all HUD foreclosures and evictions for 60 days.

If you don't have enough money to pay, contact your lender or landlord immediately. Help includes:

- If you are a Dallas Housing Authority client, please immediately report any loss of income in order to reduce your portion of rent and inspections will be restricted to health and safety only.
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Foreclosure Prevention 1-888-995-HOPE (4673)
- Texas Attorney General [Consumer Protection](#) or call 800-621-0508
- [Texas Health and Human Services Commission](#) has resources available. There may be vouchers to assist those in need with paying their rent. Also get government assistance with other needs, including lease application fees, information on low income housing and security deposits. Dial 1-877-541-7905 to find additional ways to get rent help.
- [Texas](#) offers programs that can help you with paying your mortgage and also avoid foreclosure. Local resources, including government and non-profit assistance, can help qualified homeowners

- Homeowners have other resources too. Also [click here](#) for a listing of Texas HUD counseling agencies that provide free foreclosure counseling.

Paying Utilities

- If you need help paying your utility bills, contact your service provider immediately. [Atmos](#), [TXU](#) and Dallas Water Utilities has suspended disconnections at this time.
- *Vistra, on behalf of TXU, Ambit, and Tri-Eagle electric is going to: waive late fees, extend payment due dates with no down payment required, reduce down payments and deferring balances over five equal installments. Additionally, for TXU customers, they are providing additional bill payment assistance to customers in need through its TXU Energy AidSM program*
- *Charter Communications is offering free access to Spectrum Broadband and Wi-Fi for 60 days for new K-12 and College Student households. Residents should call: 1-844-488-8395. Charter is also working with school districts to ensure that communication is provided about the free wi-fi; Charter continues to offer Spectrum Assist for households without school-aged children; Charter is also opening its Wi-Fi hotspots for public use.*

Food Assistance and Donation

- Here is also a [list of open food pantries](#) inclusive of hours.
- [North Texas Food Bank](#) has shifted to box distribution model with partner agencies. Food4Kids and School Pantry programs remain fully functional, and they are partnering with the City to deliver snack/hydration kits to the homeless.
They are also running low on some supplies. Please donate if you're able!
 - Here is our most needed list:
 - Canned Tuna or Chicken
 - Peanut Butter
 - Cereal Bars
 - Canned Fruit in juice
- *Dallas County Health and Human Services Older Adult Services Program is currently providing meals delivered to homebound seniors. There is a drive-thru for hot meal pick-up service set up at each senior center location. Seniors needing these resources can call 214-819-1860 to enroll.*
- *Meals will be provided to all children at most district middle and high schools and will be distributed twice a week, on Monday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM. On Monday you will receive Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday will have Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper for the rest of the week, including Saturday. For pick up locations and menus, visit this [link](#).*
- Hero and HG SPLY Co have begun a service called "Family Meal To Go" - Starting tonight at 6 pm they will be serving Family Meal To Go from the Valor St entrance of Hero. This will be free to all service industry and their families. Guests will stay in their car and staff will deliver meals to their cars. They will be utilizing food donated from their vendors as well as from their own kitchens. This will be available Monday through Friday from 6 pm - 9 pm or until we run out of food. It is available for all service industry folks as well as any family affected by Covid. If you are interested in donating to this cause email BeatCovid@livinghg.com. They will take any and all donations of product. They have two 24,000 sq ft spaces they can utilize for dispersing items to impacted service industry and affected families safely. More information is available [here](#).

Insurance Issues

The [Texas Department of Insurance](#) has resources and information available for consumers who have insurance related questions.

For Businesses

- The City of Dallas Office of Economic Development has created a [web page](#) with information for small business.
- A loan program has been established by the Small Business Administration, specifically for those impacted by the coronavirus.
- There is also \$1 billion in additional federal SBA loans for small businesses and nonprofits, provided under Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 USC 636(b)). (Section 7(b) is on pages 762-768 of the attached document.) The House Appropriations Committee posted this summary: <https://appropriations.house.gov/.../Coronavirus%20Supp%20Sum...>
- Residents can check on a state disaster Declaration status here: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/Index>. The State of Texas has not been declared yet for disaster declaration. When/if there is a declaration announced it will be listed on the website. The business can then apply.
To apply:
 1. Go to www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance
 2. Call 1-800-659-2955 or TTY: 1-800-877-8339
 3. E-mail: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) is providing low-interest loans of up to \$2 million to help with operating expenses.
- Facebook also has a \$100 million Small Grants Program accessible here.
- The Texas Comptroller's Office has [resources available](#).

Mental Health Resources

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services has extensive [resources](#) available for mental health support, including those facing a [mental health crisis](#). Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute also included a list [here](#).

The Metrocare Coronavirus Support Line is available during our normal business hours Monday through Friday for those Dallas County residents experiencing high anxiety or depression during these turbulent times. Metrocare's professionals will assist individuals in accessing our mental health services and provide referrals for other services that may be needed. The Metrocare Coronavirus Support Line for Dallas County is 214-743-1215.

Domestic Violence Survivor Resources

- [Futures Without Violence](#) has compiled [useful references](#), including for community-based advocates and health providers.
- The work of the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) is crucial in times like these, and has 24/7 online chat in addition to their hotline number and [excellent safety planning resources](#).
- We are in close communication with the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#).
- [VAWnet](#), a project of the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#), has special collections on topics like [disaster and emergency preparedness and response](#).
- NNEDV's own [WomensLaw.org](#) offers an [online legal hotline](#) in addition to plain-language information for victims of abuse.

Childcare Resources

- The Texas Workforce Commission's [subsidized childcare program](#) is making changes to their requirements in light of the COVID-19 crisis. Please check their website regularly for announcements coming soon.
- Due to COVID-19, YMCA branches are currently closed; however, they continue to offer [limited childcare programming](#) on a daily basis, supporting the childcare needs of first responders, medical professionals, government officials, and those that must continue their work in this challenging time. This care will be offered until further notice, at 11 YMCA branches across the Dallas Metroplex, in accordance to state guidelines.

Other Resources

- Paid Sick Leave information: City of Dallas employers must provide employees with paid sick leave to care for themselves or a family member. An employee may use paid sick leave for the employee's or their family member's illness, injury, healthcare, and reasons related to domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. For more information or to file a complaint, call 214-670-FAIR (3246) or visit www.dallascityhall.com/paid-sick-leave.
- The Texas State Department of Public Safety has [suspended expired IDs](#): driver's licenses, IDs, commercial drivers licenses, and election identification certificates expiration dates will be extended.
- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, [The Dallas County Clerk's Office](#) will be closing its Vital Records and Recording Divisions to the public. All transactions will be done either by mail, document drop off, or by appointment only. The public closure will take effect starting Monday, March 23, 2020 through May 1, 2020, but may be extended based on COVID-19 status.

Student Loans Deferment

If you need help with your student loans, you may be able to temporarily suspend your payments by applying for a deferment or forbearance from the US Department of Education.

Other Resources

Protect Yourself Financially from the Coronavirus - [Information from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#).

Job Interrupted -A To-Do List for Tough Times - [Information from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority](#).

Financial Peace of Mind in the Age of Coronavirus - [Information from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority](#).

Avoiding Coronavirus Scams- [Information from the Federal Trade Commission](#)

For detailed information regarding the coronavirus, please visit the [CDC 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

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