



Good afternoon,

I hope you and yours are safe and well. Several new regulations and recommendations have come out from the State and County over the past few days. I want to take a moment to share these with you.

My office is working closely with the Chief of Staff for the City, Kim Tolbert, to honor and thank our City essential workers. We are looking to provide an appreciation lunch for our Code Compliance Officers and Fleet Workers whose job it is to sanitize all vehicles for our first responders. If we are able, we would also like to provide an appreciation lunch for our essential workers in Dallas Water Utilities, Public Works, Dallas Animal Services and 311. If you would like to sponsor a lunch for a few of our employees, please let my office know by reaching out to [sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com](mailto:sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com). As always, your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

If you are concerned about a business or person who is violating the current regulations, please contact 311. They will send a Code Compliance Officer or DPD officer out to investigate the complaint and issue a notice of violation and/or citation as needed.

I also wanted to take a moment to highlight a silver lining. I received this note from our partners in Vickery Meadow yesterday. Thank you again for your generosity and providing for those who need it most at this time - *"Thank you for helping raise the funds that have allowed the Pantry to continue operating despite the tremendous increase in demand for food in the neighborhood. In two days alone this week, the Pantry served over 1000 people, over 200 families, including many seniors, and lots of children! We are serving more families in one week than we usually serve in a month at the Pantry. That is possible only because we have the funds to buy the food we need."*

My office will continue to send out updates as they are needed. They will likely be more intermittent until regulations change. As always, please reach out if we can be of service. We are here for you.

### **New Regulations from Governor Abbott**

Governor Abbott released three executive orders yesterday. Below is a summary with embedded links for the full text:

- The first Executive Order ([GA-15](#)) relates to hospital capacity and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for the COVID-19 response. The order loosens restrictions on surgeries put in place by Governor Abbott in March. From April 21 through May 8, all licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities must continue to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without timely performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse

medical consequences or death as determined by a patient's physician, except:

- Any procedure that, if performed in accordance with the commonly accepted standard of clinical practice, would not deplete the hospital capacity or the PPE needed to cope with COVID-19, or
- Any surgery or procedure performed in a licensed health care facility that has certified in writing to Texas HHSC both (1) that it will reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients, accounting for the range of clinical severity of COVID-19 patients, and (2) that it will not request any PPE from any public source whether federal, state, or local for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster.
- The Governor's second Executive Order ([GA-16](#)) relates to the safe, strategic reopening of select services and activities in Texas. This Order allows for nonessential retail services (sale of goods) to reopen on Friday, April 24, but through pickup, delivery by mail, or delivery to the customer's doorstep, or other locations to minimize contact. Under this Executive Order, schools including public, private, and higher education institutions will remain closed for the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers may go into the classroom for video instruction, to perform administrative duties, and to clean out their classrooms.
- The governor's third Executive Order ([GA-17](#)) creates a strike force to re-opening Texas. A team of nationally recognized medical experts and private and public leaders will advise the Governor on safely and strategically reopening the State of Texas. The medical arm of the strike force is responsible for developing a medical architecture to comprehensively test and trace COVID-19 to help gradually and safely return Texans to work.
- The Governor also announced that State Parks will be reopened Monday April 20th, with the requirement that facemasks must be worn, social distancing practices are still in place and gatherings of no more than 5 people.

### **New Dallas County Amended Orders**

On Thursday, County Judge Clay Jenkins released amended orders regarding the use of facemasks for all residents visiting essential businesses or using public transportation. Yesterday, the Dallas County Commissioner's Court met to review these regulations to make the following changes:

- Craft stores may reopen to give people the ability to purchase their own supplies to make masks
- The order was changed to explicitly say that residents not in compliance won't be fined or incur any issues with law enforcement.
- The order requires anyone older than two who works at an essential business, rides public transit or is running an essential task like going to the grocery store to wear a face covering. The county judge added that items like scarves or bandanas were acceptable.
- Establishments could refuse to let someone into their building if they aren't wearing a face cover.

[Cloth Face Coverings FAQ - English](#)

[Cloth Face Coverings FAQ - Spanish](#)

Full Amended Order as of 04/16/20 (this will change to reflect the meeting today):  
[English](#)

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins released a new website for all things COVID-19, [www.dallascountycovid.org](http://www.dallascountycovid.org).

The City Attorney created an "Essential Businesses FAQ" in English and Spanish.  
[English FAQ](#)

Curious if your business is essential or non-essential? Email [businesscovid19@dallascounty.org](mailto:businesscovid19@dallascounty.org)

### **Updates Regarding Testing Sites**

Starting April 15 the COVID-19 both Community Based Testing Sites (CBTS) will begin utilizing self-swab testing kits, transitioning from nasopharyngeal swabs. "The self-swab testing method proves to be less invasive and is safer for patients and healthcare providers," said Randall Payton, Incident Commander of both CBTS locations. "Health and safety are the primary goals for workers and those being tested. We're confident this new method will decrease the risk of contamination."

The new process allows persons being tested to swab shallowly in their nose as opposed to a healthcare professional collecting a sample from further up the nasal cavity.

In addition, both testing sites are increasing their capacity to 500 tests each daily and have changed their testing criteria to the following:

- Anyone who is 65+ or has an underlying health condition OR
- Anyone with these three symptoms:
  - Shortness of breath
  - Cough
  - Fever of 99.6+

### **Updated Data from the City**

As of 10:00 am April 17, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 124 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total case count in Dallas County to 2,190.

Five additional deaths are being reported, including:

- A woman in her 60's who was a resident of the City of Dallas and had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Farmers Branch and had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- A man in his 70's who was a resident of the City of Dallas and had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- A woman in her 60's who was a resident a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas and had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- A man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility in the City of Dallas and had been critically ill in an area hospital.

Of cases requiring hospitalization, most have been either over 60 years of age or have had at least one known high-risk chronic health condition. Diabetes has been an underlying high-risk health condition reported in about a third of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Most (69%) deaths have been male. Twenty deaths have been associated with long-term care facilities.

Additionally, Dallas County released the [confirmed cases by ethnicity](#) and the [summary of deaths by age, pre-existing conditions and ethnicity](#).

Please see attached [summary](#) comparing COVID-19 to the flu released Tuesday, April 14th.

The following is an update on the City's planning and preparedness efforts regarding COVID-19, as of Friday, April 17, 2020.

## Positive cases of COVID-19

- 2,190 in Dallas County - 124 are new
- 505 in Collin County
- 1,093 in Tarrant County
- 564 in Denton County
- 33 in Kaufman County
- 41 in Rockwall County
- 93 in Ellis County

## Hospital Reports

Twenty-five hospitals reported ventilator and bed capacity numbers to Mayor Eric Johnson's office.

- Total beds: 5,710
- Beds occupied: 2,995
- Total ICU beds: 827
- ICU beds occupied: 519
- Total ventilators: 940
- Ventilators in use: 299

## Lab Reports

As of 5:30 p.m. the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management has received a report from eight labs. Below are the numbers for today, Friday, April 17, 2020:

488 COVID-19

tests

82 positive

394 negative

Below are testing numbers from labs to date:

Dallas County has reported at least two recovered COVID-19 cases, however the exact number of patients who have been released from area hospitals to continue their recovery at home is not available at this time.

Total tests to date by DCHHS	1,132
Total tests to date private labs*	7,175
Total negative tests to date*	7,094
Total cases	2,190
Total deaths	55

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

Community Based Testing Sites - The numbers reported from the two community-based testing sites for April 16 are as follows:

American Airlines Center	Ellis Davis Field House
Total number of visitors: 290	Total number of visitors: 295
Total tested: 281	Total tested: 271

## Tenant & Property Owner Relief

The Ad Hoc Committee on Human and Social Needs and Assistance met Thursday to discuss a City ordinance regarding tenant eviction protections. This proposed

compromise ordinance passed the committee and has been sent to the Mayor with a request to add it to the April 22nd Council Agenda. You can find the memo to the Mayor [here](#) and the proposed ordinance [here](#). For our full update that we shared last weekend, please view this [document](#).

### **Family Violence Update**

For all resources related to domestic violence and child abuse, please use this [document](#). April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. If you see something, say something by calling 911.

### **North Texas Giving Day NOW**

For North Texas, during these unprecedented times, our greatest assets are each other. In solidarity and in support of our community, Communities Foundation of Texas, United Way Metropolitan Dallas, and the Dallas Cowboys have launched an emergency giving campaign: North Texas Giving Tuesday Now.

As quickly as we're learning of needs, we're also hearing of people who want to help. Here's how you can do that:

- [GIVE](#): Early giving is open! Visit the website, read the updated profiles of specific nonprofits, or support a relief fund! You can support your favorite cause, TODAY.
- [Volunteer, virtually](#): Nonprofits have needs that you can meet from the comfort of your own home. Take a look at the opportunities listed here.
- [Become a FUNdraiser!](#) Show your support for your nonprofit(s) of choice by creating a page, and telling why you're raising funds for them.

### **7+7+40: Donations Needed to Support Restaurants and Healthcare Workers**

7740 was founded to help support the restaurant industry and provide meals for our healthcare workers. If you are interested in helping both industries at the same time, please find more information [here](#).

### **DART Needs Your Input to Redesign the Bus System**

DART is currently in the process of redesigning our bus network. The plan, called DART Zoom: A New Bus Network, will change our bus network to improve bus frequency, efficiency and connections throughout our 700 square mile, 13-city service area. The redesign effort stems from regional growth in employment, population and demographic shifts that impact the effectiveness of our existing network.

As we move forward in the redesign process, we would like to engage with our community to gain valuable feedback and input. One way of engaging with our community is by hosting webinars and tele-town halls, which are listed below.

Online Webinar schedule:

Thursday, April 23, noon to 1 pm

Online webinar

Register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Xs7LO\\_9DTx--gGrQaoLUjQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xs7LO_9DTx--gGrQaoLUjQ)

Saturday, April 25, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Online webinar EN ESPAÑOL

Enlace aquí: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ISfD98CsRle3XaJU4yJAmQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ISfD98CsRle3XaJU4yJAmQ)

Monday, April 27, 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Online webinar

Register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EPguC45jRF-OpPq4I2RZ3A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EPguC45jRF-OpPq4I2RZ3A)

Tele Town Hall schedule: (Telephone town hall call-in information will soon be

posted on the calendar at: <https://dartzoom.dart.org/getinvolved>)

Friday, April 24, noon to 1 pm

Saturday April 25, 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Monday, April 27, noon to 1:00 pm (EN ESPAÑOL)

Survey:

DART Zoom Survey: <https://dartzoom.dart.org/survey>

The redesign effort is scheduled to be implemented in May 2022. Below is the tentative timeline for the redesign effort. These dates will be refined as we have a better understanding of how we will emerge from the COVID-19 situation.

- Fall 2020-Winter 2021 - Final draft plan and DART Board decision
- Spring 2021 - Public Involvement events including public hearing and public meetings
- Summer 2021 - Approval of redesign plan
- May 2022 - Initiate service changes

### **Have you changed the way you buy groceries for your family?**

The City of Dallas is doing research to develop better programs, tools and policies on food. Please take a moment to complete this survey. The survey is also available in Spanish.

The banner features a green background with a dark blue footer. At the top, it asks, "Have you changed the way you shop for groceries or access food for your family? Filling out our short survey will help the City develop better programs, tools, and policies on food." Below this, the title "Shopping for Groceries Survey" is prominently displayed in white, with three grocery bags icon below it. The text "In conjunction with the FOOD IDEA THE CITY OF DALLAS INNOVATION CHALLENGE" is centered below the title. The footer contains the URL [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CODfoodaccess](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CODfoodaccess) in white text on a dark blue background.

### **Information on Applying for Unemployment**

Individuals who have lost their job or wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for unemployment benefits by calling the Texas Workforce Commission's Unemployment Benefit Claim Self-Service at 800-939-6631 or by applying online at [ui.texasworkforce.org](http://ui.texasworkforce.org).

Due to the unusual high volume of Texans filing unemployment claims, TWC is in the process of expanding the number of call centers to meet the need. Individuals are requested to stagger their calls and access to the online portal based on the applicant's area code. Following are the recommended call and access times.

# NAVIGATING UNEMPLOYMENT:

## HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS AFTER LOSING YOUR JOB DUE TO COVID-19

Texans who find themselves unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply for unemployment benefits and manage their claims through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).



### Apply Online

Visit [ui.texasworkforce.org](https://ui.texasworkforce.org) and create a user ID and password.



### Apply on the Phone

Call the TWC Tele-Center at 800-939-6631.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED:

- Personal information and Social Security number
- Personal Identification Number (for returning claimants only)
- Previous employer's business name, address, and phone number
- Dates worked for for last employer, along with wages and work hours
- Nine-digit routing information and account number for your bank or credit union, should you wish to receive benefits via direct deposit.

**STEP 1:** Complete the online application

**STEP 2:** Choose your payment plan & sign up for e-mail updates

**STEP 3:** Submit your application & retain the confirmation number

**STEP 4:** Receive your benefits via debit card or direct deposit

UI.TEXASWORKFORCE.ORG | TWC TELE-CENTER: 800-939-6631

## WHEN TO APPLY:

TWC is currently experiencing a massive increase in call volumes and hold times on their Tele-Center phone lines and online web application. To help prevent website outages and ensure every applicant is able to file their unemployment benefits claims, TWC is asking Texans to apply during designated times and days, based on the number their area code begins with.

### If your area code begins with 9, file claims on:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

### If your area code begins with 7 or 8:

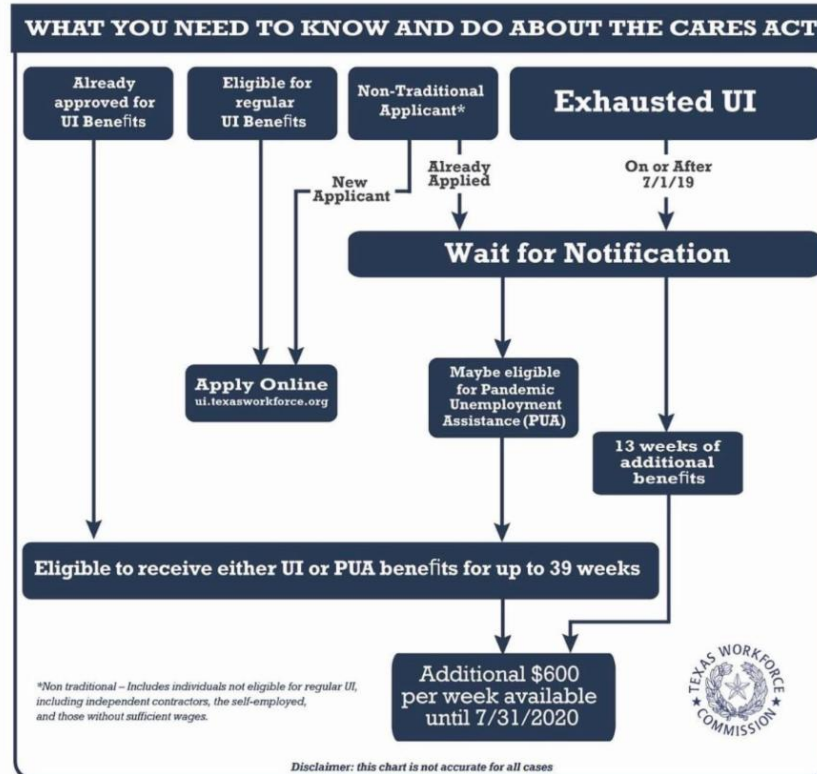
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

### If your area code begins with 3, 4, 5 or 6:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

### If your area code begins with 2:

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
1:00 PM and 5:00 PM.



UI.TEXASWORKFORCE.ORG | TWC TELE-CENTER: 800-939-6631

**UT School of Law Launches Website with Financial Assistance Resources** The Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic at The University of Texas School of Law has launched a new website that tracks housing policies adopted by the federal government, State of Texas, and local jurisdictions to help Texas residents stay in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying financial crisis. The site covers renter protections, foreclosure protections, and utility access protections. <http://sites.utexas.edu/covid19relief/>

### Increased Coyote Sightings in Residential Neighborhoods

As we shelter in place longer, coyotes will be seen more frequently in residential neighborhoods as they scavenge for food where they can find it. This is a nationwide trend, so please don't be alarmed. Please access this [helpful guide](#) to enable us to co-habitat peacefully. Please note unless they are deemed unhealthy or aggressive, animal services Dallas Animal Services will not remove them. If you see



an aggressive coyote, report it through 3-1-1.

### **COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donations**

UTSW has created a site to screen candidates to donate plasma from select individuals who have fully recovered from COVID-19. The plasma is for possible "emergency use" therapy for select critically ill COVID-19 positive patients. COVID-19 has not been around long enough for scientists to have definitively studied the effectiveness of convalescent plasma for its treatment. But the FDA has recently allowed for "emergency use" of COVID-19 convalescent plasma as an investigational therapy. Information is available [here](#).

### **Grants Available for Non-Profits Who Support COVID-19 Response**

North Texas Cares is a funder collaborative made up of North Texas foundations and United Ways that have come together to provide support for organizations that work with people and communities who may be most negatively affected by COVID-19. Applications from nonprofits are now being accepted on a rolling basis and will be evaluated weekly. Funding decisions will be made by each participating funder independently throughout the crisis period to facilitate the urgent need for funding in light of evolving community need. Approved requests may be funded both by individual funders as well as collectively, depending on the need. Funds will be donated directly to the grant recipients. Timelines vary by funder. Visit [northtexascares.org](http://northtexascares.org)

### **Needs in Our District - Donations Needed in Vickery Meadow**

Several non-profits in Vickery Meadow are continuing to offer services to our vulnerable residents but have seen a decline in donations due to halted church services. If you are interest and able to help, please do. We have compiled a list of [current needs here](#).

In more great news, the Vickery Meadow Food Pantry has collected over \$38,000 in donations thanks to your generosity. I continue to be blown away by the kindness of the residents in my district. Thank you!

### **Access the Library Online**

If you need a library card to access online resources, call 214-670-7809 or email [librarycustomerservice@dallaslibrary.org](mailto:librarycustomerservice@dallaslibrary.org) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

While the buildings are closed, you still have access to incredible library resources at [dallaslibrary.org](http://dallaslibrary.org). The staff continues to add hundreds of new downloadable ebooks and audiobooks to [Overdrive](#). Plus, they've expanded the offerings in [Hoopla](#) to include audiobooks and comics in addition to the streaming movies, tv and music. Magazines are available through [Flipster](#) and [PressÂ Reader](#) has newspapers from around the country and the world.

Explore the [online databases](#). Start researching your family tree with Ancestry. Learn about your favorite music using Rock's Back Pages. Pick up a new favorite pastime with instructions from the Hobbies & Crafts Resource Center. The library has online resources to help with whatever project or new passion you've decided to tackle.

[For parents now homeschooling students, they are compiling a list of resources to help you out](#)

And, they've launched a self-directed learning program called SMART Kids at Home. Students ages 5 to 18 can complete at-home and online activities around science, math, art, reading and technology. When they complete a series, kids earn

a digital badge to track their progress. Sign up for SMART Kids at Home at [dallaslibrary.beanstack.org](http://dallaslibrary.beanstack.org).

### Updated Restaurant List

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. Please note there are two tabs - one just for D13 restaurants and one for restaurants across the City who have contacted our office. VisitDallas is also running a [website](#) with an ongoing list of open restaurants by neighborhood. If you would like to add a restaurant to this list, email [restaurantupdates@visitdallas.com](mailto:restaurantupdates@visitdallas.com)

**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](http://www.visitdallas.com)  
\*list is continually updated

[www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com)

City of Dallas

### 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](#). [Dallas Children's Theater](#)

has released fun ideas to put on a show with your kids from home!

From April 14-23, 2020, the Dallas Art Fair will present Dallas Art Fair Online, a new platform allowing collectors to digitally preview and purchase works from participating galleries before the fair's upcoming twelfth edition, which has been rescheduled to October 1-4, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Dallas Museum of Art is also offering a virtual tour of their new exhibit, [Flores Mexicanas: Women in Modern Mexican Art](#).

### **Extensive Resources for Business and Residents**

The wonderful staff of D9 and D12 have been diligently updating an extensive resource guide for our residents and businesses. Please use this [link](#) to access all current information that has been shared with our offices. These are updated on Fridays. You may also find it in Spanish [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](mailto:sarah.evans@dallascityhall.com).



**Jennifer S. Gates**

*Councilmember District 13*

**City of Dallas** | [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com)

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