



Good Evening,

I hope you and yours are safe and well as we continue to navigate our new normal together. Yesterday, the County Commissioners met and agreed to extend the declaration of local disaster through May 20th which is independent of any specific restrictions. I believe there is a lot of confusion about what the order means and how these decisions are made, and I want to take a moment to address them here.

Yesterday's vote to extend the declaration of local disaster through May 20th gave County Judge Clay Jenkins the authority to put in place emergency regulations as needed to respond to this public health crisis. Using this authority, Judge Jenkins amended our shelter in place regulation to align with the Governor's recommendation, April 30th. The overarching goal is to flatten the curve and lessen the surge on hospital and ventilator capacity. If data suggests that the curve has flattened, as I hope it will, the State and County may be able to begin lifting shelter in place regulations after April 30th. If they reevaluate the situation and realize by April 30th that it has gotten worse, it is possible that they will be extended. Many of you have asked for the data that informed this decision - you may find it [here](#). This was presented at the Commissioner's meeting yesterday, April 3rd.

It is also important to remember that the State supersedes the County which supersedes the City. When decisions are made on the State or County level, the City of Dallas must comply. Just like the City Council, all meetings at the County are public meetings and can be viewed online or listened to over the radio. These are also public meetings which means you, the public, are able to speak and give your input. The next meeting of the Dallas County Commissioners Court is Tuesday, April 7th at 9 a.m. and you may find the agenda [here](#). Some of you may be unfamiliar with who your County Commissioner is - you may find out [here](#).

Many of you have reached out to my office for guidance and support at this time. We are reading everything and are trying to use this newsletter to answer general questions. Sometimes, we do not have all the answers. Neither myself or my staff are attorneys, and while we will push to have questions answered for you regarding the new regulations, we rely on our city attorneys who are also overwhelmed. I strongly encourage you to read the orders carefully and reach out to [businesscovid19@dallascounty.org](mailto:businesscovid19@dallascounty.org) to have your essential vs. non-essential business questions answered. The Governor also released new orders on March 31st which outline what is considered an essential business which both the County and City must comply with. You may find it [here](#).

Please know that we are fully aware of the impact the County, State and City's decisions are having on our residents financially, mentally, and physically. I would be lying if I said it has not impacted people close to me as well, including my staff members, who have had family members laid off or have had to shutter their business. No one will be immune from the repercussions of these decisions, however, the health and well-being of all people must come first. Everyone is

handling this differently and it is stressful for all. Please keep this in mind when reaching out and know that both my staff and I also want what is best for you, your family, your friends, and our economy. We are on the same team.

I again want to reiterate that I have been appointed by the Mayor to work on the hospital response and take this role very seriously. Like you, I want our decisions to be data-informed and to have this publicly available for all residents. I am currently working with analysts and researchers to independently evaluate the data to ensure our decision making is sound. I also understand the importance of knowing the full extent of our hospitals capacity and the number of ventilators available in our community.

We all have a role to play in flattening the curve and responsibility to abide by the current orders and recommendations which exist at a local, state and federal level. This means if you are on a crowded trail, you go somewhere else where you can safely stay 6 feet apart. This also means that visiting with friends or extended family other than the people who live in your home is not an option. The sooner everyone complies, the sooner we can resume our normal lives and allow the economy to begin to improve. DPD and Code Compliance are actively issuing warnings and will issue citations for those who fail to comply.

I also wanted to take a moment to remind you and encourage your friends and family to fill out the census. Every single person counts. [Click here to complete the census.](#)

As always, please stay safe and reach out to my office if we can assist in any way.

### **New Dallas County Amended Emergency Orders & Updates**

Yesterday, the Dallas County voted to extend [shelter in place orders through April 30th](#) and [emergency regulations through May 20th](#). You may find the shelter in place order in [Spanish here](#).

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

Please click [here](#) for a map of confirmed cases by zip code current as of end of day April 3rd.

The City Attorney created an "Essential Businesses FAQ" in English and Spanish.

[English FAQ](#)  
[Spanish FAQ](#)

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

### **Orders from the State**

On April 2nd Governor Abbott released new emergency regulations state-wide. Our attorneys are reviewing our orders to ensure they align with the state's. You may find them [here](#). His office also released clarity regarding houses of worship. Find more information in [English here](#) or in [Spanish here](#).

### **Updated Data**

As of 10:00 am April 4, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 94 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total case count in Dallas County to 1,015. The 18th death from COVID-19 is being reported, of a man in his 30's who was as resident of the city of Dallas, and had been critically ill in an area hospital. He did not have underlying

high-risk health conditions. Of cases requiring hospitalization, about three-quarters (71%) 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 over a quarter (28%) of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Please see attached [summary](#) comparing COVID-19 to the flu released Friday, April 3rd.

The following is an update on the City's planning and preparedness efforts regarding COVID-19, as of April 3, 2020:

#### Positive cases of COVID-19

- 921 in Dallas County - 90 are new
- 227 in Collin County
- 325 in Tarrant County
- 254 in Denton County
- 5 in Kaufman County
- 10 in Rockwall County
- 25 in Ellis County

#### Hospital reports

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

- Total beds: 5,233  
Beds occupied: 2,686
- Total ICU beds: 777  
ICU beds occupied: 422
- Total ventilators: 886  
Ventilators in use: 301

#### Lab Reports

As of 5:00 p.m. the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management has received a report from five labs. Below are the numbers for today, Friday, April 3, 2020:

312 COVID-19

tests

69 positive

234 negative

Below are testing numbers from lab to date:

There were some past discrepancies with these numbers due to two of the larger labs providing cumulative totals not daily totals. Manual adjustments have been made and the numbers below reflect the accurate totals.

Total tests to date by DCHHS	709
Total tests to date private labs*	3,715
Total negative tests to date*	3,546
Total active cases	921
Total deaths	17
Total recovered	2

\*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 2 are as follows:

American Airlines Center	Ellis Davis Field House
Total number of individuals: 364	Total number of individuals: 248
Total tested: 250	Total tested: 155

**UT School of Law Launches Website with Financial Assistance Resources** he 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 nation-wide 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)

### **Domestic Violence Resources for Victims and Partner Needs**

Councilmember Gates met with our Domestic Violence partners on Tuesday to discuss assistance they are offering at this time and what their needs are as they continue to offer services to the most vulnerable in our population. Please visit our [domestic violence website](#) for additional information or to make a donation.

### **Guidance for Homeless Shelters and Domestic Violence Shelters**

If you have confirmed case or suspected case of COVID-19 at your shelter, please visit the [CDC website for best practices](#) to keep all clients safe.

## **Report Child Abuse**

Unfortunately, child abuse and domestic violence are likely to increase during social isolation and economic hardships. Report child abuse either by phone 1-800-252-5400 or online at [txabusehotline.org](http://txabusehotline.org) if you suspect a child may be in danger. Every adult in Texas is a mandatory reporter.

## **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)



## **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!

## **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*



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