



Good afternoon,

I hope you and yours are safe and well as we continue to navigate our new normal together. I'm continuing to work with University of Texas at Dallas to evaluate our data and am in communication with the County and the healthcare system.

Councilmembers have divided up our work into two committees that meet weekly to address immediate needs - the Ad Hoc Committee on Human and Social Needs, of which I am a member, and the Ad Hoc Committee of Economic Recovery and Assistance. As more information and resources become available, I will share these with you.

Yesterday evening the Mayor announced that all 397 public parks in Dallas will be closed over Easter weekend to prevent large gatherings. Trails will be open for use as long as residents continue to social distance appropriately. This will be enforced by DPD, Code Compliance, Park Rangers and many other City and County officials. Please, for the safety and well-being of your families and others, stay home. The parks will shut down at 9 p.m. Friday, April 10, and will reopen to the public at 7 a.m. Monday, April 13. You can find the press release [here](#).

### **Tenant & Property Owner Assistance**

We have heard from our partners in Vickery Meadow that many residents are being threatened with evictions. I want to take a moment to ensure everyone knows what the new protections are for tenants and the relief available for property owners. I am aware that when tenants do not pay rent, this has a ripple effect making it harder if not impossible for property owners to pay mortgages. While evictions have been halted, there are also safeguards available for property owners to make up lost income to meet their financial obligations.

The new orders issued by the Texas Supreme Court have created the following outcomes in Dallas -

- Eviction proceedings for residential tenants are halted state-wide until after April 30th, and the Dallas County Judge has issued a separate order halting such hearings in Dallas County until after March 18th
- Writs of possession (i.e., the formal eviction order from a court) cannot be issued without a hearing so the moratorium on eviction proceedings above means you cannot be legally removed from your home until after the moratorium expires.
- Your landlord may post a "Notice to Vacate" on your door telling you that you must vacate the property within a few days. This document is just the first step in starting the eviction process. **IT IS NOT AN ORDER FROM A COURT AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VACATE THE PREMISES UNTIL A WRIT OF POSSESSION IS ISSUED AND EXECUTED AFTER THE MORATORIUM ENDS.**
- Your landlord may change the locks on your residence if you can't pay rent.

However, they are required by state law to post a notice with a phone number that will be answered 24 hours a day, and if you call that number they are required to bring you a new key within 2 hours - even if you can't pay them the back rent. Note, this re-entry rule only applies to residential tenants.

- If your landlord does not bring you a new key, you may file a "Writ of Re-entry" with the Justice of the Peace Court. Actions by tenants to regain entry into their residence will still be heard by courts at this time
- New filings for evictions will still be accepted by the courts, but as noted above the courts will not do anything with those filings until after the moratorium ends
- Even if a writ of possession has already been issued against the tenant, it cannot be enforced to remove the tenant until after May 7th UNLESS the court issued the writ because of the tenant posing a threat or being engaged in criminal activity.
- The County Orders halt all eviction cases and do not expressly exclude commercial property. However, the re-entry rule above does not apply to a commercial tenant, which must pay all back rent before the landlord is required to provide them a new key
- Under the Dallas County Order, landlords are advised to cap late fees for delayed payment of rent at fifteen dollars (\$15) per month, but note they are not required to do so

For a full breakdown of the Landlord-Tenant facts from the Dallas City Attorney use this [link for English](#) and this [link for Spanish](#).

Dallas County is rolling out a tenant helpline and email address for tenants who have been evicted or who are pending eviction. [TenantHotline@dallascounty.org](mailto:TenantHotline@dallascounty.org) / 214-653-6563 or 833-743-0072

The below information and information about the initial order suspending evictions, is available at: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/tenant-hotline.php> in English and Spanish.

Prior to contacting the hotline, residents are being advised:

- Tenants engaged in criminal activity or causing an imminent threat to health and safety may be subject to eviction prior to the aforementioned date.
- Tenants still have a responsibility to pay rent. There are currently no rent forgiveness programs
- Tenants are encouraged to contact their landlord and make sure they are aware when eviction moratoriums are in place.
- When having difficulty paying rent, tenants should attempt to make payments and/or establish a payment schedule with their landlord.

Once you have taken the above steps and for all other tenants, if you have been evicted or notified of a pending eviction, notify the Tenant Hotline by email or phone:

[TenantHotline@dallascounty.org](mailto:TenantHotline@dallascounty.org) / 214-653-6563 or 833-743-0072

If you have questions and would like to speak with a lawyer or if you have been evicted and need immediate assistance, for free, send an email to [DallasEvictions2020@gmail.com](mailto:DallasEvictions2020@gmail.com) or visit [www.dallasevictions2020.com](http://www.dallasevictions2020.com).

Small businesses may qualify for the CARES act assistance, including certain forgivable loans guaranteed by the SBA. I have attached a [Small Business Resource Guide](#) prepared by Rep. Allred, as well as a [Small Business Owners Guide](#) to the CARES act. Those should give you some clarification on whether you

qualify for this type of federal relief. You may also call your bank to discuss the application process with them.

If you still owe a mortgage on your home or rental property and are worried about your financial stability you should have access to relief right now if your loan is federally guaranteed. For home-owners, you may be eligible for forbearance up to 180 days with a possible additional 180 day extension. The below comes from House Financial Services Committee with respect to property owners with federally guaranteed loans that rent their property to others:

**Q.** What kind of assistance is available to rental property owners under this bill?**A.** Rental property owners with federally backed mortgages who may be having difficulty making mortgage payments due to nonpayment of rent will have access to mortgage forbearance. Single-family (1-4 units) rental property owners will have access to the same relief as single-family homeowners described above. Certain multifamily (5 or more units) rental property owners with federally backed loans will have access to forbearance for a period of 30 days, and that period can be extended for up to 2 additional 30-day periods upon request, with the option to discontinue the forbearance at any point. Some lenders may voluntarily provide forbearance or other relief even if they are not federally backed loans. Rental property owners should reach out to their mortgage servicers if they need assistance, regardless of whether their loan is federally backed. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Family Violence Update**

Yesterday I had the opportunity to hear from the CEO of the Domestic Violence Hotline. While the volume of phone calls to the hotline has not increased under shelter in place orders, they have heard from over 2,400 callers that say the violence they have experienced is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. They do anticipate that the calls will increase once shelter in place has ended because many survivors are currently being closely monitored by their abusers. In the mean time, if you have friends or family who are in abusive relationships please take a moment to check on them. If you are uncomfortable having a conversation with a loved one you are worried about, the Domestic Violence Hotline has a very helpful resource [here](#). DPD has also been promoting a See Something, Say Something campaign. We have a collective responsibility to look out for one another. Please report any suspicious behavior to 9-1-1 immediately.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Reports of child abuse in Dallas are down, largely because many cases are reported by schools, and schools are not in session. Again, if you see something, say something.

TexProtects is a Texas non-profit organization whose mission is to protect Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empower families to thrive through education, research, and advocacy. They have released a wonderful [Survival Kit](#) to help parents and families navigate the impact of COVID-19 or visit their [website](#).



### **FEMA Funding for the Tornado**

I am disappointed to say that FEMA rejected the state of Texas' request a major disaster declaration. The impacted municipalities had a collective \$18.89 million of confirmed damages, well short of the \$38.5 million cut off. FEMA did not validate DISDs under-insured school losses which is what led to this shortfall. Governor Greg Abbott's office, through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and the City of Dallas are preparing an appeal of the denial. We have 30 days from March 31 to file an appeal with documentation that supports an excess of \$38.5 million in damages, the State threshold for a FEMA disaster declaration. Today, the City of Dallas and TDEM received the damage estimates for TJ High School and Walnut Hill Elementary School, which, coupled with the estimates already received for damages to Cary middle school, will put us well over the \$38.5 million threshold. Now that we have all the pertinent information, we will be working with FEMA to validate these estimated damages. Once complete, we will submit a formal appeal to FEMA and hopefully receive the disaster declaration we desperately need.

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**

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 8th.

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 9, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 108 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total case count in Dallas County to 1,432. The 21st and 22nd deaths from COVID-19 were reported, including a man in his 80's who was a resident of a long-term care facility who had been in hospice care, and a man in his 70's who was a resident of the city of DeSoto who had been hospitalized. Of cases requiring hospitalization, about three-quarters (70%) 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 (29%) of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

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 Friday, April 3rd.

The data below is current as of end of day yesterday, April 8th:

#### Positive cases of COVID-19

- 1,324 in Dallas County - 63 are new
- 343 in Collin County
- 517 in Tarrant County
- 366 in Denton County
- 16 in Kaufman County
- 15 in Rockwall County
- 44 in Ellis County

#### Hospital Reports

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

- Total beds: 5,349
- Beds occupied: 2,854
- Total ICU beds: 782
- ICU beds occupied: 488
- Total ventilators: 901
- Ventilators in use: 313

#### Lab Reports

As of 5:00 p.m. the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management has received a report from 13 labs. Below are the numbers for today, Wednesday, April 8, 2020:

435 COVID-19

tests

55 positive

361 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	962
Total tests to date private labs*	5,347
Total negative tests to date*	5,137
Total active cases	1,324
Total deaths	20

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

### **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:

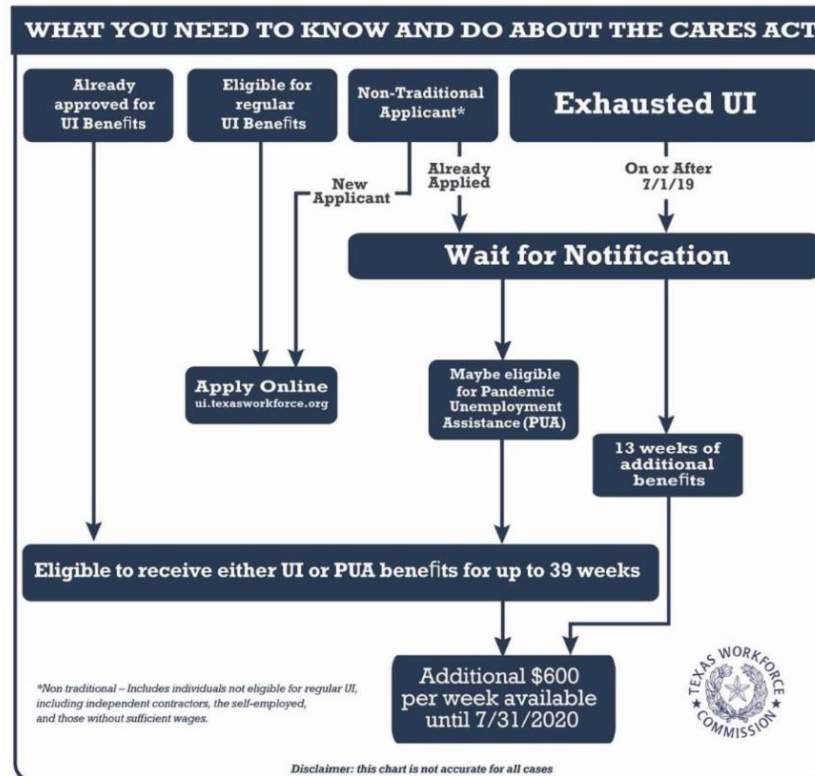
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

### 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)

### **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](#).

### **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!

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)

1500 Marilla St 5FS

Dallas, TX 75201

O: (214) 670-3816