



Good afternoon,

I hope you and yours are safe and well. May 1st is already upon us, and our state has officially begun the slow process of re-opening. Our City Attorneys and the County are working diligently to ensure our orders match the orders of the state. Once we have received the amended orders, we will be sure to share them with you.

As we transition from shelter in place to safer at home, please keep in mind that the City, County and State are all in agreement that outside of visiting essential and re-opened businesses, you should continue to avoid gathering in large groups or with people you do not live with. They also recommend wearing a mask in public and continuing to maintain a 6 foot distance between you and other people. Please use good judgement and avoid trails, walkways or other public spaces where appropriate social distancing is not possible. While we have begun the process of contact tracing and are working diligently to increase testing, we still do not have enough tests to determine everyone who is a carrier.

Please access the full report from Governor Abbot, *Texans Helping Texans - The Governor's Report to Open Texas*, [here](#).

Given the Governor's latest executive orders, the City of Dallas Building Inspection Department will resume issuing permits for elective construction. Please click [here](#) for the full memo.

The Dallas City Council voted on two new programs for rental and mortgage assistance and small business loans from funds received from the federal CARES Act. These will both open to the public on May 4th. Click [here](#) for information on the rental and mortgage assistance program and SBA loan program in English and Spanish. Because these are federal funds the City must abide by federal regulations and all applicants must be legal citizens.

At the Mayor's direction I'm continuing work as the liaison with the hospital system and COVID model researchers. The City has engaged Dr. Tim Bray with the University of Texas at Dallas Institute for Urban Policy Research who is working with other regional hospital, university, and educational public health groups to provide modeling to inform our public policy decisions and your personal decisions. The University of Texas at Dallas has made this modeling information a data dashboard available on this [public website](#) to support this work. The City of Dallas COVID data website is also has great information available [here](#).

This past week I held my monthly Domestic Violence Task Force with partners from across the City. Many organizations expressed their concern that their staff is running low on basic supplies to keep their employees safe while providing for the needs of their residents, many of whom live in communal living facilities. If you have access to gloves, face masks (yes, even homemade ones!) or cleaning supplies,

please consider donating these to our partner organizations. Mosaic Family Services who provides hotels for survivors of domestic violence are also running short on hotel rooms for families in need. If you are able to help, please do. [Click here](#) for more information about our partners, their services and their current needs. Domestic violence is a pervasive problem throughout our City. We have seen an increase in aggravated assaults and anticipate that shelters will see an increase in calls once shelter in place regulations are lifted. As always, if you see something, say something.

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. The intent of these reports are compliance. The City understands that these regulations can be confusing for residents and businesses alike and are using these compliance checks to educate the public and enforce as needed.

Finally, though I know the bulk of our focus is on dealing with COVID-19, I am still working with the City to ensure that we are moving forward with clean up from the October tornado. I met with the Director of Code Compliance, Carl Simpson, and Councilmember Kleinman last week to discuss ongoing issues with unsafe and unsecured commercial and residential properties. We have asked Mr. Simpson to enforce current city code and hold all residents accountable maintaining a safe and secure environment. Many of you have begun to rebuild your homes, and we understand your frustration when neighbors or local businesses allow their properties to continue to decline. If you are still working with your insurance adjuster or insurance company on finalizing your claim and receive a notice of violation, please reach out to your code compliance officer. We are here to work in partnership to restore our district and our City.

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.

Additional Testing Sites

In addition to the testing sites at the American Airlines Center, the Ellis Field House and the Walgreens at 2060 S. Buckner Blvd., Watermark Church UrgentCare has added a testing site located at Watermark Community Church's Dallas Campus. The site does require a referral though offers multiple ways to get a referral for testing. For more information please visit their [website](#). For information on the AA and Ellis Field House sites click [here](#). Information about Walgreens can be found [here](#). Additionally, current Parkland patients are eligible for testing with a referral from their physician.

Updated Data from the City

As of 11:00am May 1, 2020, Dallas County Health and Human Services is reporting 187 additional positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), bringing the total case count in Dallas County to 3,718, including 106 deaths.

The additional 2 deaths being reported today include:

- A man in his 20's who was a resident of the City of Dallas, and had been critically ill in an area hospital.
- A man in his 50's who was an inmate of a correctional facility in the City of Hutchins, and had been critically ill in an area hospital.

Of cases requiring hospitalization who reported employment, about 79% have been critical infrastructure workers, with a broad range of affected occupational sectors,

including: healthcare, transportation, food and agriculture, public works, finance, communications, clergy, first responders and other essential functions. 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. Of the 106 total deaths reported to date, about 40% have been associated with long-term care facilities.

Please see attached [summary](#) released Tuesday, April 28th.

Starting this week, the numbers provided in the nightly update and more can be viewed on the [COVID-19 DFW regional dashboard](#).

Tenant & Property Owner Relief

Dallas City Council passed an ordinance to increase communication between tenants and property owners during the state of local disaster in regards to evictions. Please see the ordinance as passed [here](#). Click [here](#) for the notice of eviction in English or [here](#) for Spanish.

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](#).

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. Please click [here](#) for the survey.

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.

Shopping for Groceries Survey



In conjunction with the **FOOD IDEA**
THE CITY OF DALLAS INNOVATION CHALLENGE

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CODfoodaccess

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.

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 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:

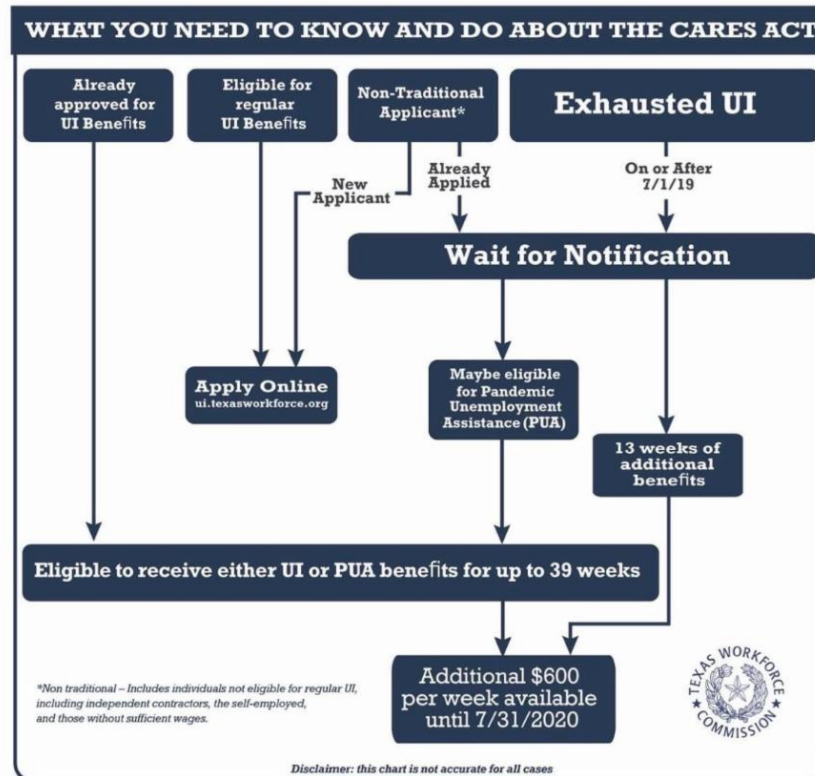
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

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

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 \$50,000 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 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. 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

**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

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.



Jennifer S. Gates

Councilmember District 13

City of Dallas | www.dallascityhall.com

1500 Marilla St 5FS

Dallas, TX 75201

O: (214) 670-3816