

Texas COVID-19 Update

March 25, 2020

COVID-19 has created a fluid and rapidly evolving situation across the state of Texas. Below are the latest developments:

Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Texas

President Trump issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Texas today. This announcement comes after the Governor requested the declaration—citing the need for additional federal assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health, and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of COVID-19.

Texas Receives \$16.2 million Federal Grant for Senior Meals

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that Texas has received a \$16.2 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Community Living (ACL) to help communities provide meals for older adults.

The grant was part of a \$250 million dollar outlay authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020. Originally created by the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965, these programs provide meals to more than 2.4 million older adults nationwide each year, both through home delivery and in places like community centers.

Texas Requests SNAP Benefits Waiver

Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission sent a letter yesterday to the United States Department of Agriculture seeking permission to move forward to allow Texas Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their benefits at take out and drive thru restaurants throughout the state as Texas continues to combat COVID-19. If approved, it would open up another food source for 3.2 million Texans.

Gov Abbott Issues Additional Waivers to Increase Hospital Bed Capacity

Governor Greg Abbott today has temporarily waived certain hospital licensing rules and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has adopted an emergency rule to meet Texas' need for additional hospital capacity while the state responds to COVID-19. These actions allow for certain facilities that have pending licenses or facilities that have been closed for no more than 36 months to come online under existing hospital building licenses. These facilities will be administered and operated by hospitals with existing licenses. The waivers also remove certain mileage restrictions which will allow hospitals to operate additional facilities that are more than 30 miles away from the main licensed hospital.

Shelter-in-Place Orders

Hays and Robertson County have added to the growing list of communities that have enacted shelter-in-place orders. Details can be found in the full list below.

Quick Links

- Texas Department of State Health Services Map: [COVID-19 Texas Case Counts](#)
 - Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Map: [COVID-19 Global Case Counts](#)
 - State Agency Resource Links, and PPE Donations: [Texas.gov](#)
 - Office of the Governor: [gov.texas.gov](#)
 - Texas Department of Emergency Management Daily Updates: [TDEM Situation Reports](#); [TDEM District Reports](#)
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Governor Abbott Declarations

March 25th

- [Governor Abbott Announces Federal Grant for Senior Citizen Meals](#)
- [Governor Abbott Sends Letter Seeking Permission For SNAP Recipients To Use Their Benefits At Take Out And Drive-Thru Restaurants](#)
- [Governor Abbott Takes Action To Expand Texas Hospital Capacity](#)

March 24th

- [Governor Abbott Announces Increased PPE Supply, Issues Executive Order To Strengthen Reporting Capabilities](#)
- [Governor Abbott Authorizes Restaurants To Sell Bulk Retail Product From Distributors To The Public](#)

March 23rd

- [Governor Abbott Requests Major Disaster Declaration from White House](#)
- [Governor Abbott Announces Distribution Of Federal Funding For COVID-19 Response](#)

March 22nd

- [Governor Abbott Issues Executive Order Increasing Hospital Capacity, Announces Supply Chain Strike Force For COVID-19 Response](#)

March 21st

- [Governor Abbott Takes Action to Expand Nursing Workforce](#)

March 20th

- [Governor Abbott Announces Approval Of Emergency Designation For Small Business Disaster Loans From U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Health Care Fees For Incarcerated Texans In TDCJ Facilities](#)
- [Governor Abbott Issues Statement On Texas Supreme Court Temporary Suspension Of Residential Eviction Proceedings](#)
- [Governor Abbott Allows Event Permit Refunds For Businesses Affected By COVID-19 Cancellations](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Regulations To Support Pharmacy Operations, Allow Telephonic Consultations](#)
- [Governor Abbott Postpones Runoff Primary Election In Response To COVID-19](#)

March 19th

- [Governor Abbott Issues Executive Orders In Accordance With Federal Guidelines To Mitigate Spread Of COVID-19 In Texas](#)
- [Governor Abbott Issues Executive Orders To Mitigate Spread Of COVID-19 In Texas](#)
- [Dr. John Hellerstedt Issues Public Health Disaster Declaration In Texas](#)

March 18th

- [Governor Abbott, DPS Waive Expiration Dates for Driver Licenses](#)
- [Governor Abbott Issues Proclamation Allowing For Postponement Of Local Elections Set For May 2nd](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Certain Regulations To Allow Delivery Of Alcohol From Restaurants And To Support Hospitality Industry](#)
 - [TABC Clarification on the Delivery of Alcohol Waiver](#)
- [Governor Abbott Announces Temporary Closure Of Driver License Offices](#)

March 17th

- [Governor Abbott Issues Proclamation Postponing Special Election For Texas Senate District 14](#)
 - This was the seat recently vacated by State Senator Kirk Watson (D, Austin)
- [Governor Abbott Activates Texas National Guard In Response To COVID-19](#)
- [Governor Abbott Requests Emergency Designation For Small Business Disaster Loans From U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Certain Regulations For Telemedicine Care In Texas](#)

March 16th

- [Governor Abbott Waives STAAR Testing Requirements](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Certain Vehicle Registration, Titling, And Parking Placard Regulations In Texas](#)

March 15th

- [Governor Abbott Waives Laws To Allow Trucks From Alcohol Industry To Deliver Grocery Supplies](#)
- [Governor Abbott Waives Regulations To Ensure Students In Work-Study Programs Receive Critical Funding During School Closures](#)

March 14th

- [Governor Abbott Waives Certain State Trucking Regulations To Expedite Delivery Of Resources Around Texas](#)
- [Governor Abbott Fast-Tracks Licensing For Out-Of-State Medical Professionals](#)
 - Update – HHS is set to issue a regulation today to allow for medical professionals to practice across state lines

March 13th

- [Governor Abbott declares a State of Disaster for all Texas Counties](#)
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City Update Links

Houston

[City of Houston COVID-19 Updates](#)

Dallas

[City of Dallas COVID-19 Updates](#)

San Antonio

[City of San Antonio COVID-19 Updates](#)

Austin

[City of Austin COVID-19 Updates](#)

Laredo

[City of Laredo COVID-19 Updates](#)

El Paso

[City of El Paso COVID-19 Updates](#)

Fort Worth

[City of Fort Worth COVID-19 Updates](#)

Arlington

[City of Arlington COVID-19 Updates](#)

McAllen

[City of McAllen/Hidalgo County COVID-19 Updates](#)

Corpus Christi

[City of Corpus Christi COVID-19 Updates](#)

Lubbock

[City of Lubbock COVID-19 Updates](#)

Bryan/College Station

[Brazos County COVID-19 Updates](#)

Waco

[City of Waco COVID-19 Updates](#)

Current Shelter-in-Place Orders:

- Texas does not have a statewide shelter-in-place order
- Cities and counties have been defining critical infrastructure and essential workers for their emergency orders based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The CISA guidelines can be found [here](#).
- City of Dallas – Dallas County
 - Judge Clay Jenkins was the first official in Texas to issue a “stay home, stay safe” order late Sunday afternoon. The order takes effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 23rd and will last until April 3rd.
 - Dallas has begun community-wide testing (must show symptoms)
 - Mayor Johnson clarified his order to include all residents within the city limits of Dallas, regardless if their residence falls within the Dallas County lines
 - Full details of the Dallas County order can be found [here](#).
 - Full details of the City of Dallas order can be found [here](#).
- City of San Antonio – Bexar County
 - Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Wolff are set to announced the new “stay home, stay safe” order for San Antonio and Bexar County on Monday evening. The order will take effect at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday through April 9th.
 - Full details of the City of San Antonio order can be found [here](#).
 - Full details of the Bexar County order can be found [here](#).
- City of Houston – Harris County
 - Harris County and the City of Houston issued “stay home, work safe” orders Tuesday morning. The orders are effective as of 11:59 p.m. on March 24, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020.
 - Harris County has begun community-wide testing at two locations, with the capacity to complete up to 250 per day/site. Details at www.ReadyHarris.org
 - Full details of the Harris County order can be found [here](#)
- City of Austin – Travis County
 - Mayor Adler announced a “stay home, work safe” order on Tuesday. It is effective at 11:59 p.m. March 24th through April 13th.
 - The full City of Austin order can be found [here](#)
- City of Fort Worth – Tarrant County
 - Mayor Betsy Price and Judge Whitley signed emergency declarations on Tuesday, March 24th, to implement stay home, work safe restrictions to help combat the spread and impact of COVID-19 on the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. The orders go into effect today, Tuesday, March 24th, at 11:59 p.m. and remains in effect until April 3rd (city) and April 7th (county).
 - Full details of the City of Fort Worth order can be found [here](#).
 - Full details of the Tarrant County order can be found [here](#).

- City of Waco – McLennan County
 - Mayor Deaver declared an emergency shelter-in-place order for the City of Waco on Monday. The order takes effect at 12:00 a.m. on the 24th.
 - Full details of the City of Waco order can be found [here](#).
 - Full details of the McLennan County order can be found [here](#).

- City of El Paso – El Paso County
 - Judge Ricardo Samaniego and Mayor Dee Margo issued “stay home, work safe” orders on Tuesday. The orders are effective on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 11:59 PM MST, and continuing until otherwise terminated, rescinded, superseded, or amended by the County Judge or Commissioners Court.
 - Full details of the El Paso County order can be found [here](#).

- City of Lubbock
 - Mayor Pope announced the closure of all non-essential businesses. The order takes effect on March 24th at 6:00 p.m. through April 3rd.
 - Full details of the City of Lubbock order can be found [here](#).

- Hunt County
 - The Hunt County Commissioner’s Court has issued a disaster declaration for the county that details a shelter-in-place, or "stay at home" order. The order goes into effect Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. and directs all non-essential employees and businesses to cease activity or stay at home except for essential activities and business. The order ends April 3 at 11:59 p.m. unless officials choose to extend the order.
 - Full details of the Hunt County order can be found [here](#).

- *Hidalgo County
 - Hidalgo Co. does not have a shelter-in-place order at the moment, but they have implemented a stay at home curfew between the hours of 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. Full details of the Hidalgo County order can be found [here](#).

- Cameron County
 - On Monday, Judge Trevino announced a mandatory shelter-in-place order for Cameron County. The order will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 25th through April 8th.
 - Full details of the Cameron County order can be found [here](#).

- Milam County
 - Full details of the Milam County order can be found [here](#).

- Bell County – City of Killeen
 - Judge Blackburn orders a “stay home, stay safe” order, effective 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020.
 - Full details of the Bell County order can be found [here](#).

- Brazos County

- Judge Peter's issued a shelter-in-place order to be effective at 9:00 p.m. March 24th through April 7th. The order exempts essential employees and businesses.
- Full details of the Brazos County order can be found [here](#).
- Collin County
 - Collin County issued a 7-day stay-at-home order on March 24th that takes effect immediately.
 - In contrast with other stay-at-home orders that have come out this week, the Collin Co. order does not restrict any businesses from being open. "Persons who are employed need to stay employed," Judge Hill said. "Persons who lack employment need to gain employment. Businesses that are able to remain open need to remain open."
 - Full details of the Collin County order can be found [here](#).
- Denton County – City of Denton
 - Denton County Judge Andy Eads and City of Denton Mayor Chris Watts jointly issued an amended executive order for Denton County and a second Mayoral declaration of disaster and order for the City of Denton requiring residents to stay at home effective at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.
 - Full details of the City of Denton order can be found [here](#).
 - Full details of the Denton County order can be found [here](#).
- Rockwell County
 - County Judge David Sweet has issued a Shelter In Place order for all Rockwall County residents. The order goes into effect tonight at 11:59 PM. The order was issued at a special emergency meeting of the Rockwall County Commissioners Court this morning. The order is effective until April 15th.
 - Full details have not been posted at this time.
- Williamson County
 - Judge Bill Gravell issued a "Stay Home Stay Safe Order" that shall become effective at 11:59 p.m. on March 24th and will continue to be in effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 13th.
 - Full details of the Williamson County order can be found [here](#).
- Galveston County
 - Judge Mark Henry issued a stay-at-home order to take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 24th through April 3rd.
 - Full details of the Galveston County order can be found [here](#).
- City of Lampasas
 - Mayor Misti Talbert issued a shelter-in-place order to be effective immediately through April 3rd.
 - Full details of the City of Lampasas order can be found [here](#).
- Hays County
 - Judge Ruben Becerra announced that Hays County will be issuing a shelter-at-home order and a 11 p.m. curfew in Hays County. Details to follow

- Robertson County
 - Judge Charles Ellison issued a shelter-in-place order to be effective at 9:00 p.m. March 25th through April 8th
 - Full details of the Robertson County order can be found [here](#).
- Nueces County
 - TBD – Judge Canales will be holding a press conference at 4:00 pm today.
- City of Marfa – City of Alpine – Jeff Davis County – Brewster County – Presidio County
 - Many West Texas communities announced a mandatory closure of motels, RV parks, and short-term rentals this week. Visitors should vacate the premises by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday. <https://marfapublicradio.org/blog/closures-of-hotels-motels-rv-parks-and-short-term-rentals-in-presidio-brewster-and-jeff-davis-counties-went-into-effect-this-week/>
- Texas Hospital Association (THA)
 - On Monday, THA sent a letter to Governor Abbott urging local communities to adopt shelter-in-place orders.
 - A copy of the letter can be found on THAs [website](#)

McGuireWoods Consulting Resources

[McGuireWoods Consulting COVID-19 Updates and Resources](#)

Employers

- [OSHA Issues New COVID-19 Preparedness Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Considerations for Employers Addressing the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Managing Coronavirus Risk Through Insurance](#)

Stay Safe!

For more information, please contact a member of the McGuireWoods Consulting Texas Team:

[Holly Deshields](#), Senior Vice President/Director

[Bri Weber](#), Research Associate

[Mark Miner](#), Senior Vice President/Director

[Kwame Walker](#), Senior Vice President

[Amber Hausenfluck](#), Senior Vice President

[Tony Gius](#), Senior Vice President

[Lucy Nashed](#), Vice President

[Jim Sheer](#), Vice President

[Tracy Morehead](#), Vice President