

A Weekly Update from City Hall

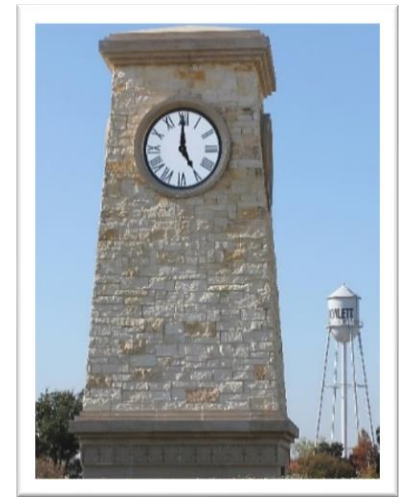
FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 8

04.21.20

Rowlett
TEXAS
THE place to live, work and play.



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



"I am optimistic that all of our joint efforts to flatten the curve of this pandemic appear to be working. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are beginning to consider how to gradually adjust current restrictions under which our businesses operate. Elected leaders must be led by science in carefully modifying restrictions to help the economy without hurting public health. We

must do this safely to not ruin the gains you've achieved through the sacrifices you have made. For your part, please limit those unnecessary trips, wear a face covering at essential businesses and keep practicing physical distancing measures."



On Friday, Governor Abbott issued three new Executive Orders to begin the process of reopening the state of Texas while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines. These orders provide additional exceptions to the stay-at-home order, which is still in place for the whole state until April 30. Within the orders, select activities and services that pose minimal to no threat of spreading COVID-19 are allowed to reopen using a "Retail-To-Go" model, certain restrictions on surgeries have been loosened, and school facilities will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Effective Monday, April 20th

State parks reopened with strict guidelines to reduce transmission of COVID-19—including requiring visitors to wear face coverings, maintain a six-foot distance from individuals outside of their party, and prohibiting the gathering of groups larger than five.

Effective Wednesday, April 22nd

Restrictions on certain elective medical procedures and testing will be loosened. Read the order [here](#):

Effective Friday, April 24th

This order establishes a temporary "Retail-ToGo" model that will allow retail outlets in Texas to reopen. Under this model, reopened establishments are required to deliver items to customer's cars, homes, or other locations to minimize contact. Read the order [here](#):

Within these orders, the Governor has also established the Strike Force to Open Texas—a team of nationally recognized medical experts and private and public leaders who will advise him on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas. Read the order [here](#):

Dallas County Safer at Home Order

Important City Meetings

City Council –

Regular Meetings: May 5 & 19; 5:30 pm *check agenda on [website](#)*
Friday before mtg

Special Council Meetings

Monday nights on off weeks of Regular Meetings. Next meeting – April 27, 5:30pm via ZOOM meetings

COAD – Wednesday nights @ 5:30pm via GO TO MEETINGS. Contact [Elise Bowers](#) for more information.

SPECIAL P & Z MEETING – April 28 via ZOOM – Start Time TBD

Board of Adjustment – Will meet as needed, 7pm by Virtual Meeting

NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

All meetings will be held virtually – until further notice.

We ask that you watch our meetings on Rowlett's Cable Channel [RTN16](#) or streaming online through our [website](#).

ALL OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LIMITED ACCESS TO ALL CITY BUILDINGS

* EXCEPT PUBLIC SAFETY *
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY IF NEEDED



Monday, April 27th – The Governor will announce a plan for the state based on the initial recommendations of the strike force as they begin providing input on potential additional openings of activities and services in Texas consistent with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Texans are battling a colossal challenge—an invisible enemy that has tested our lives and our livelihoods—but overcoming challenges is part of who we are as Texans," said Governor Abbott. "We have shown that Texas can continue our efforts to contain COVID-19 while also adopting safe standards that will allow us to begin the process of reopening Texas. The Strike Force to Open Texas brings together nationally recognized medical experts with public and private sector leaders to achieve this mission. By coming together, we can get Texans back to work, practice safe standards that will prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we can overcome this pandemic."



Dallas County Amended Safer at Home Order – Dallas County has amended their Safer At Home Order under their Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to include directives for face coverings. This Order affects all areas of the City of Rowlett, no matter the county.

Effective 3:00pm Saturday – April 18th – **Amended Dallas County Safer At Home Order:**

- To the greatest extent possible all persons over the age of two shall wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandanna or handkerchief, when patronizing an Essential Business or using public transportation.
- To the greatest extent possible, all non-medical employees who work at an Essential Businesses or perform services that are exempt under the Safer at Home Order must wear face coverings over their noses and mouths while performing their work.
- An owner or operator of an Essential Business may refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear face covering.
- Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for maintaining 6- foot social distancing and hand washing.

Effective 3:00pm Saturday – April 18th – **Amended Long-Term Care Facility Order:**

- Language clarifying that the Order applied to Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and Nursing Homes
- Language clarifying that if a resident is transferred from a LTCF to a hospital to receive care, the resident can be transferred back to the LTCF
- Allows facilities to accept new admissions if the Facility goes 30 consecutive days without a resident or staffer testing positive for COVID-19
- Allows the Dallas County Health Authority to designate a COVID-19 LTCF to receive recovering COVID-19 patients from hospitals

To view this Order and the accompanying [Cloth Face Coverings FAQ](#) and <https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/20916/Exhibit-G---Cloth-Coverings>, please go to www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19, where you will find all this information plus much more.

Thank you for staying up to date with all of the information we continue to share – it evolves often and we appreciate your attention to the changes!

Dallas County Safer at Home Order

In the Community

ACTION CENTER – Weekdays 8 -5 @ 972.412.6100 OR Online 24-7 (City Hall Building Closed; By Appointment Only)

STREAMING COUNCIL MEETINGS – April 13, April 7, April 1, March 30, March 23, March 20

COVID-19 UPDATE VIDEO by Mayor & EMC – March 26, 2020

COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall Meeting – March 16, 2020

Coronavirus Information – Texas Health & Human Services Site

COVID-19 Testing Sites – Open 8am to 5pm Daily
AAC, 2500 Victory Plaza, Parking Lot E
Ellis Davis Field House, 9191 S. Polk St.

Tenant Hotline

RFD Telemedic Program Information

RFD How to Wear Mask/Gloves

Notify Me – Subscribe TODAY!

Connect Rowlett – Sign up today!





Rowlett Fire Department Shows How to Properly Put On and Remove Face Masks/Gloves – Our firefighters are ready to show us the proper way to wear masks for maximum protection. Thank you!

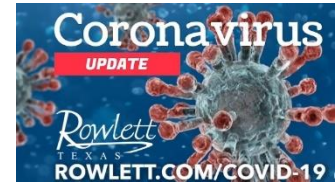


Rowlett Fire Department Implements TeleMedic Program – The Rowlett Fire Department has a long history of providing innovative solutions to complex issues. Continuing that legacy of care and commitment to our community, the Rowlett Fire Department has implemented a TeleMedic program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please click on this [link](#) to continue reading...

Public Drive-thru Testing Sites Implemented Now –

◆ Self-swab tests are being implemented at the Ellis Davis Field House (EDFH) and American Airlines Center (AAC) public testing sites. These tests are less invasive, safer, and help preserve PPE supplies. Beginning April 16th, the EDFH and AAC sites will have new testing criteria:

- ◆ Persons 65 years or older can now be tested without the symptom requirement.
- ◆ Persons with chronic health issues (diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc.) can now be tested without the symptom requirement.
- ◆ Any first responders, DART drivers, healthcare workers, grocery store workers, and essential retail store workers.
- ◆ All others must have a temperature of 99.6 or higher and shortness of breath or cough (this is the current symptom requirement).
- ◆ A photo ID (but not necessarily a government-issued ID) and health insurance card (if a person has insurance; insurance coverage is not a testing requirement) are required.
- ◆ Both sites are operating every day from 8am to 5pm, unless otherwise determined by testing capacity or weather conditions.
- ◆ Test results will be provided through phone calls or Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp websites 3-7 days after testing. However, a delay may occur with physicians receiving the results first before providing it to tested persons. Test sites will not have this information. Individuals who have tested at a City of Dallas COVID-19 public drive-thru test site (American Airlines Center or Ellis Davis Field House) and haven't received their results after 7 days can send an email to Dallascbtsresults@dallascityhall.com with the following info: name, location of test, date/time of test, and telephone number. Someone with the City of Dallas will follow up with Quest Diagnostic or LabCorp on behalf of the individual tested.
- ◆ The State of Texas is using the Texas National Guard to deploy 25 COVID-19 mobile testing teams across the state. Locations will be determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services with the first two locations being in Fredericksburg and Floresville.



The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 7pm Tuesday, April 20th:

- National – 783,290 cases (72,015 recovered), 41,872 deaths
- Texas – 19,458, (5,706 recovered), 495 deaths
- North Texas - 5,347, (849 recovered), 145 deaths
- Dallas County – 2,512 cases, (recovered n/a), 60 deaths
- City of Garland – 221 cases (102 have recovered), 8 deaths
- Rockwall County – 47 cases, (0 recovered) 0 deaths
- City of Rowlett – 36 cases (21 recovered), 2 deaths

Our Rowlett cases include 17 women and 19 men. They range in age from late teens to 80's. Ten are under 40 years old and eleven are over the age of 60.

Rowlett will continue to alert the public about any new cases, but will restrict information to age range and gender as it is available to us. Please visit www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19 for more information and the measures instituted to help protect our community.



The City of Rowlett joins with other governmental entities in protecting the privacy and safety of households with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. With federal guidance, the City's health authority provides direction to those individuals to self-quarantine. When necessary, the City's health authority can legally enforce directives for isolation, quarantine or conditional release, including movement restrictions, for the purpose of protecting the public's health.

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 27

The City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing until further notice and we encourage the public to view live on the City's website or via RTN16. The City Council may receive public input – to provide comments for the meeting, please send an email to CitizenInput@rowlett.com by 3:30pm the day of the meeting. Please state whether your comment is regarding a specific agenda item or a general comment to Council. Your comment will be read into the record during the meeting (must be within the 3-minute time limit).



Specific access to each meeting will be included on the posted agenda, which can be found on the Public Bulletin Board on the City's website: <https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/980/Public-Bulletin-Board>. For additional assistance, please contact the Action Center at 972-412-6100 or cac@rowlett.com.



Rockwall Central Appraisal District & Dallas Central Appraisal District

Information about the newly released 2021 property tax assessment letters from Rockwall County Appraisal District (RCAD) and information about the appraisal notice process from Dallas County Appraisal District (DCAD) is available [here...](#)

Dallas County Establishes Tenant Hotline – For those individuals experiencing hardships with paying rent and also possibly facing eventual eviction, this hotline can provide information and help connect you with agencies and groups that may be able to provide some help.

Email: tenanthotline@dallascounty.org Call: 214-653-6563 or 833-743-0072
 Website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/tenant-hotline.php>



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Now more than ever your local business community needs you to shop Rowlett...from the retail shop downtown to the restaurant on the corner, they need your business. Shop Rowlett – Stay Home – Stay Local!

Rowlett Food Establishments OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Economic Development department has an up to date and extensive COVID-19 business and workforce resource page.

On the web page is important information on business funding mechanisms that are available, as well as additional local, regional, state, federal government, national, and international resources. The Rowlett Chamber has many good resources on its webpage too.



IMPORTANT WEBSITES, EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION:

Facts regarding COVID-19 and how to prevent it, what to do in the event you or a family member become ill, and many other resources including the latest news concerning our community.

www.rowlett.com/covid-19

Essential Household Activities questions – Email cac@rowlett.com or call 972-412-6100

Essential Business Activities questions – Email jtucker@rowlett.com

Essential Businesses and Specific Uses – [List of Essential Businesses](#)

Testing questions? Here is the [Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview](#)

Questions about your pet and their health? Here is the [Texas Animal Health Commission's FAQ](#)

Information about Rowlett Ready – www.RowlettReady.com or email needs@rowlettready.com if you need local assistance from volunteers.

Rowlett Restaurants/Food Establishments – [Open for business](#)

Dallas County Orders – [Safer @ Home](#)

[Long Term Care Facility](#)

[Covering of Nose and Mouth](#)

Texas Governor's Orders – [Executive Order](#)

[March 31 Essential Services and Activities Executive Order](#)

[Governor Greg Abbott Air Travel Order](#)

[Governor Greg Abbott Detention Centers Order](#)

[Governor Greg Abbot Louisiana Texas Travel Order](#)

[Governor Gregg Abbott Hospital Capacity Executive Order](#)

[Governor Gregg Abbott Opening Texas Executive Order](#)

[Governor Gregg Abbott Open Texas Strike Force Executive Order](#)

Don't Be A Victim To These Scams – Visit www.theseniorsource.org and www.ftc.gov/coronavirus for more information. Do **NOT** click on links from sources you do not know and only call known phone numbers.

REMINDERS:

UPDATE ON FCC GARBAGE COLLECTION – ALL trash items must be bagged now. DO NOT bag recyclables.

LIMITED ACCESS TO MOST CITY BUILDINGS – Public Safety remains our top priority and the Police and Fire Department facilities will remain open to the public. As always, call 9-1-1 if you are experiencing an emergency.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES/CODE ENFORCEMENT – Will continue to operate as usual.

FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CENSUS – my2020census.gov or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

