

A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

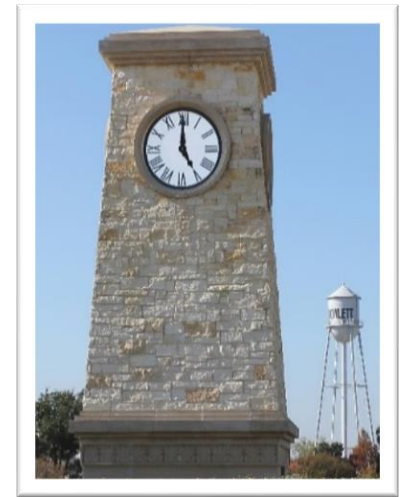
SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 10

04.29.20



THE place to live, work and play.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



"To all our residents - a heartfelt thank-you for everything you have done and will continue to do to keep our community safe. The Orders issued by Governor Abbott this week are an important first step to getting our economy up and running again. We are fighting a war on two fronts, and there are no good answers here.

Despite how this new Order was characterized, please understand that the new directives issued by Governor Abbott continue to call for all Texans to stay home, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services, to provide or obtain reopened services, or to participate in essential daily activities (ie. obtaining essential services or partaking in safe exercise activities). The Governor's Order states every person in Texas shall minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household. Additionally, people over the age of 65, are strongly encouraged to stay at home as much as possible; to maintain appropriate distance from any member of the household who has been out of the residence in the previous 14 days; and, if leaving the home, to implement social distancing and to practice good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation.

We will only be successful with your support, so keep up the good work and stay diligent with your social distancing, proper hygiene and sanitation practices, and please wear a mask to protect others when social distancing is not possible.

With the full support of the Rowlett City Council, I have revised the City of Rowlett Disaster Declaration and accompanying Orders to mirror those issued by Governor Abbott.

God bless and please Stay Safe, Stay Informed, Stay Kind and Stay Home."



On Monday, April 27th, Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Orders GA18, GA19 and GA20 to begin the process to open Texas. The Governor has also issued the "Texans Helping Texans" publication, which provides detailed guidance for individuals, retailers, customers, restaurants, movie theaters, museums and libraries, outdoor sports participation, places of worship and single-person offices.

These Orders are the governing documents for all of Texas – County and City Orders:

- May not restrict essential or reopened services.
- May not expand essential or reopened services.
- May not allow gatherings prohibited by the Governor's Executive Orders.

Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency – 9th Amended Order

Important City Meetings

City Council –

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

*****Special Council Meetings*****

Usually Monday nights on off weeks of Regular Meetings. Next meeting – May 11 @ 5:30pm via ZOOM

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

Board of Adjustment – Will meet a needed via ZOOM

*******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](#).



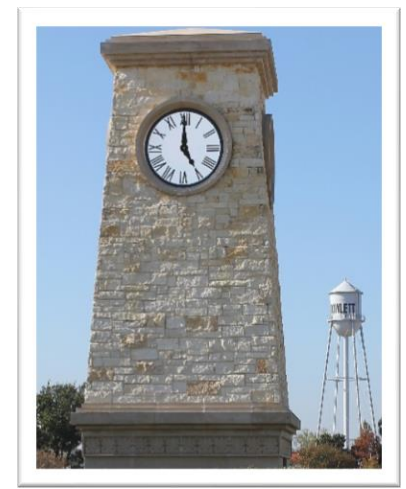
In accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders, Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian has amended the City of Rowlett Disaster Declaration and Orders, effective through May 15th.

Friday, May 1, 2020 reopened services include:

- In-store retail services, dine-in restaurant services, movie theaters, shopping malls, and museum and libraries may operate at up to 25 percent of the total listed occupancy of the establishment provided that interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, must remain closed. The 25% occupancy limitations set forth for reopened services shall not apply to essential services. The use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks remains allowed and highly encouraged.
- Services provided by an individual working alone in an office.
- Golf course operations.
- Local government operations, including county and municipal governmental operations relating to permitting, recordation, and document-filing services.

In addition, the order covers the following:

- Religious services should be conducted in accordance with the joint guidance issued and updated by the attorney general and governor.
- People may continue to visit parks, hunt or fish, or engage in physical activity like jogging, bicycling, or other outdoor sports, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.
- All licensed health care professionals can return to work on May 1 as long as they meet their licensing agencies minimum standards for safe practice during the COVID-19 disaster.
- All hospitals to reserve at least 15% of their capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- 14-day self-quarantine requirement for those traveling from Louisiana into Texas has been rescinded. The order stands for those coming from California, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Washington, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit or Miami.
- Salons, barber shops, spas, gyms, bars, interactive amusement venues like bowling alleys and video arcades, tattoo and piercing studios, and massage establishments remain closed.



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 28, 21, 13, 7, & 1; March 30, 23, & 20

Reopen Texas Video by Mayor & Chamber President – April 28, 2020

Coronavirus Information – Texas Health & Human Services Site

COVID-19 Testing Sites – See our website for information on all testing sites

Reopen Rowlett Responsibly – information on City's website

RFD Telemedic Program Information

RFD How to Wear Mask/Gloves

Notify Me – Subscribe TODAY!

Connect Rowlett – Sign up today!

Tenant Hotline

Green Cleaning – Free Disinfectant Giveaway – April 30 @ 5-7pm



The Governor also talked about Phase 2 of his plan, which could open businesses up at 50% of capacity by May 18th, but only if data shows that the virus is being appropriately contained. The ability to test and trace contacts for positive cases is critical as we open businesses and services to restart the economy. Providing rapid results, Texas currently has the capacity to perform 15-20,000 tests per day, with a goal to soon reach 30,000. State testing resources are currently focused on hospitalized patients,

symptomatic individuals, residents in long-term care facilities, healthcare workers and first responders, and those over the age of 65. Tracing those who have come in contact with an ill person is also imperative, so additional statewide resources such as an increased workforce and call center operations are being implemented in phases.

Please read the orders in their entirety, along with Governor Abbott's "Texans for Texans – Governor's Open Texas Report" on the City's website, www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19.



Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and Rowlett Chamber of Commerce President Michael Gallops fill you in on all of the changes in this informative video [Reopen Texas](#).



City website for COVID-19 Testing Information **Public Drive-thru Testing Sites Implemented Now** –

◆ Texas Department of State Health Services offers public/drive-thru testing locations; click on this [map](#) for locations.

◆ Pixel by LabCorp is now offering shipping of at-home nasal swab test kits. This is the only at-home COVID-19 test with an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from

the FDA. **Steps:** Complete a short eligibility survey, (if eligible) order the kit, receive the kit via FedEx, collect and ship the sample, and wait for the online results (two days after being received by LabCorp). Click on link for the [At-Home Test order webpage](#). Click on link for the [Patient Fact Sheet](#).

◆ Started Friday, April 24th, Walgreens is expected to start rapid testing at two DFW locations:

- 1. 8600 Camp Bowie West Boulevard (Fort Worth)**
- 2. 2060 South Buckner Boulevard (Dallas)**

Each site will be able to perform 160 tests daily. The tests will be administered by pharmacists. The tests are Abbott ID NOW tests that provide positive results in as little as five minutes and negative results within 13 minutes. Testing at these sites is available by appointment only, and only to individuals who meet eligibility criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In order to receive a test, individuals must first complete an online health assessment to determine eligibility available at www.Walgreens.com/coronavirus. Testing will be available at no cost to eligible individuals who meet CDC criteria. All drive-thru testing is being conducted outside and patients are instructed to not leave their vehicles. Patients will be informed of their results within 24-hours of testing.

◆ 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 any other essential retail 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 following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 6pm Friday, April 28th:

National – 1,011,877 cases (115,572 recovered), 58,351 deaths
Texas – 26,171 (11,786 recovered), 690 deaths
North Texas – 7,470 cases (1,363 recovered), 214 deaths
Dallas County – 3,240 cases (recovered n/a), 94 deaths
City of Garland – 352 cases (152 recovered), 10 deaths
Rockwall County – 72 cases (recovered n/a), 1 death
City of Rowlett – 48 cases (21 recovered), 2 deaths



Rowlett cases include 26 women and 22 men. They range in age from late teens to 80's. 16 are under 40 years old, 21 are between 40 to 59, and 11 are 60 +.

LATEST SCAM ALERT – Counterfeit COVID-19 and antibody testing kits are now becoming increasingly available online and throughout the DFW area. The image in this post is an example of a fake at-home antibody test sold for \$40 out of a New London, CT convenience store. Please be aware that legitimate tests are not available over the counter at any retail locations. All COVID-19 tests are operating under FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA), so be wary of claims that a test is FDA-approved or -cleared. Additionally, a provider with an EUA for the PCR test (the test to confirm COVID-19) may not have an EUA for a serology test (for antibodies).



At-home COVID-19 testing: Pixel by LabCorp is now offering at-home nasal swab test kits. This is the *ONLY* at-home COVID-19 test with an EUA from the FDA. To order, go to <https://www.pixel.labcorp.com/at-home-test-kits/covid-19-test> and complete a short eligibility survey. If eligible, order and receive the kit via FedEx, collect and ship the sample, online results will be available approximately two days after LabCorp receives your test. A [Patient Fact Sheet](#) is available for your information.

Antibody testing: There are currently NO approved at-home antibody tests. The counterfeit test kits are potentially dangerous, produced haphazardly, and may even be contaminated. As of April 22ND only four serology (antibody) tests have received an EUA. **NONE are at-home tests.** For information on these tests, go to:

- Cellex: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136625/download>
- ELISA: <https://www.fda.gov/media/137029/download>
- DPP: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136963/download>
- VITROS: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136967/download>

Please stay vigilant, valid up to date information is your best defense against these scammers. If you need a COVID-19 test or antibody test, call your doctor or visit one of the public test sites. The Texas Department of State Health Services maintains a listing of these sites [here](#).



Life Message – Rowlett's incredible aid organization could use your financial support. Donate today on their [website](#).

This valuable organization has served our community for the past 22 years (9 years as a food pantry) and is the largest distributor of food for [The North Texas Food Bank](#), which is also suffering greatly during this pandemic.

Life Message also operates [The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center \(VROC\)](#) which has seen increased demands from area veterans with diminished resources.

If you would like to help support either of these amazing resources located right here in our hometown, you can [donate](#) today!

Hope in Hand food pantry is here to serve you! Serving local communities NOW!



Location: First Christian Church Rowlett
7301 Miller Rd. 75088
972.475.3559

Open: Monday – Wednesday - Saturday from 10am to Noon & Tuesday evening from 6 to 8pm

Drive thru service! No need to get out of your vehicle.

Needs: If you would like to donate, bins are located on the patio and staff stops by several times a day to take the donations inside. All donated food will be used – whatever you drop off! Thank you in advance!

Canned Meat	Cereal
Canned Pastas	Rice
Canned Veggies	Beans
Canned Fruit	Soup





NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS – The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has left many without an income, and some are facing hunger for the first time. If you would like to make a donation to the North Texas Food Bank, just click on the link...and help feed our neighbors.

If you know someone in need now, here are a few links that may help them:

[Mobile Food Pantry](#)

[Get Food Assistance](#)

[SNAP Information](#)

[Senior Programs](#)



GOT STRESS? With so many changes and disruptions to our normal day-to-day lives, it's completely understandable to feel troubled. In an effort to help get us all through this, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority has established a mental health support line for those dealing with the trauma and stress of COVID-19. The phone number is **833-251-7544 and the line is open 24/7.**

[NTBHA 24-7 COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line - Spanish](#)

[Other Community Resources](#)



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...

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, May 11th

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.



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. Results from the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey, administered by this office and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, can be found on this webpage. There are two sets of results, one from April 6th and one from April 20th.

Shop Rowlett Stay Home Stay Local

Invest in our community. Shop with a purpose.
Check out <https://RowlettOnTheMove.com/business-listings.php> for a list of Rowlett businesses.

- Get it to go.** Order from your local restaurants and bars via delivery service, to-go, or curbside pickup.
- Buy in advance.** Purchase gift cards or book services from local businesses to use at a future date.
- Follow along.** Your favorite local businesses are online and sharing specific ways you can support them.
- Shop small online.** Websites haven't closed and it's important to leave positive reviews for local vendors and businesses.
- Stay looped in.** Keep up with your membership, and with services that are still offered online.
- Say thank you.** Many business owners and workers are risking their health to provide critical products and services. Be thankful.

Rowlett On the Water. On the Move. #ShopRowlett

ROWLETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING BUSINESS. BUILDING COMMUNITY.



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. Governor Abbott issued an Open Texas report on Monday, April 27th. The report can be viewed on the COVID-19 Business & Workforce Resources page or at <https://rowlettonthemove.com/userfiles/file/OpenTexas-Report%204.27.20.pdf>.

In addition, the Industry specific (Retailers, Restaurants, and Single Person Offices) checklists from the report are separated out and available in the Employer section of the COVID-19 Business & Workforce Resources page.

The Rowlett Chamber has many good resources on its webpage too.

ATMOS ENERGY

We're investing in our communities.
From the ground up.

Proudly supporting the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce and local restaurants.

is energizing the Rowlett community...

Spend \$25 and receive a \$35 gift card, courtesy of Atmos Energy!

Click here to purchase. Please select one of these Chamber member restaurants and enter their name in the comment section when you enter your payment information. Gift cards will be mailed to the address provided during payment unless otherwise noted in the comments.

Hurry while supplies last!

CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEES DONATED BY MERCHANT MASTERS DFW

Don Charro/Turcosos Latin Cuisine
Book Club Cafe Rowlett
Braum's Ice Cream & Dairy Store
Chick-It-A Rowlett
Cup Heads Pit House Cafe
Dino's Kitchen & Spin
Dickey's Barbecue Pit #432
Jason's Deli Rowlett
Kyoto Japanese Steak House
Lakewood Cafe
McAlister's Deli Rowlett
OPAI Greek Taverna
Palmas Brassi Churrascaria
Pizzeria Squad Rowlett
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers Rowlett
Randall Asian Cuisine and Noodle House
Santitas Lou's Home Cooking & BBQ
Sonic Drive In Rowlett
Spoons Fine Frozen Yogurt
Taco Casa
TGI Friday's
The Nutrition Spot on Dalrock
The Little Bites of Mine
WhamBurger of Mesquite, Inc
World's Cookin' & More

The Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, Atmos Energy, and Merchant Masters DFW have partnered to offer \$35 gift cards for the price of \$25 to Chamber restaurants. To purchase a gift card, go to <https://rowlettchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/184521>.

The Rowlett Public Library began **Curbside Checkout on Monday, April 27th**.

DETAILS: Patrons may check out 10 physical items by request at <https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/forms.aspx?FID=210>.



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 Businesses](#)

Testing questions? [City of Rowlett Testing Information](#) & [Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview](#)

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

[City of Rowlett Amended Disaster Declaration and Orders](#) – April 28, 2020

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

ROwlett **BU**siness **ST**imulus Grant Program Information – www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST

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

Reopen Texas Video by Mayor and Chamber President – April 28, 2020

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

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

Garland Independent School District (GISD) – meal distribution will be on Monday – Wednesday – Friday. Details Here: <https://www.garlandisd.net/node/11272>; [Map of locations](#)

Rockwall ISD will continue to provide Grab"n"Go meals at [Dobbs](#), [Rochell](#) and [Jones](#) Elementary Schools.



DART Adds Grocery Pickup & Delivery to Its Paratransit Service Customers

DART Service Modifications – www.dart.org/mod or call DART Customer Service at (214) 979-1111

Dallas County Hotline – Email: tenanthotline@dallascounty.org

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

Governor's Orders – Open Texas Executive Order GA-18-1

Texans Helping Texans – The Governor's Report to Open Texas Executive Order

Governor Gregg Abbott Travel Executive Order GA-20

Governor Gregg Abbott Hospital Capacity Executive Order GA-19

Governor Gregg Abbott Open Texas Strike Force Executive Order GA-17

Governor Greg Abbott Detention Centers Order GA-13

Guidance for Houses of Worship

Don't Be A Victim To These Scams, Check 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:

REMINDER ABOUT FCC BULK PICKUP – Consider allowing your lawn to mulch its own clippings; Keep additional items beside the cart to a minimum.

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.

