COVID-19 UPDATE

With Phase 1 of the Open Texas plan getting underway today, please remember that the success of the next couple of weeks depends on everyone. We need to be safe, smart and respectful about easing current restrictions in order to accomplish the goals that prompted them in the first place: avoiding loss of life, keeping families healthy, and avoid overwhelming our healthcare system. Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and Rowlett Chamber of Commerce President Michael Gallops share what changes have been updated in this informative video Reopen Texas.

➡️ Restaurants and retailers that choose to open will be working to keep both customers and employees safe with a variety of protocols. While some will be consistent with the statewide orders, individual businesses may choose to take any additional steps they believe are in the interest of safety. Please be respectful of their additional efforts.

➡️ Some restaurants and retailers may choose NOT to open yet despite being allowed to. Those owners have the right to make that decision. Please be respectful of their decision.

➡️ Individuals may engage in outdoor sports, provided that the sports do not include contact with other participants, and no more than four (4) participants play the sport at any time. Additionally, individuals shall avoid public swimming pools.

➡️ Many Rowlett businesses, including hair and nail salons, barber shops, massage establishments, gyms and more, were not included in the state’s Phase 1 reopening plan and are prohibited from opening at this time. If you have the means to support them in the weeks ahead through the purchase of gift cards or retail products, etc., these businesses would surely appreciate it. Hopefully they will be reopening as part of Phase 2.

➡️ While the new state order going into effect today does not include a specific number on maximum gathering size, it does ask Texans to continue minimizing social interactions and interactions with those outside of their household. Please do not take that guidance lightly; a number of the currently active COVID-19 cases are directly attributable to family and friends who chose to continue socializing with one another in recent weeks.

➡️ Governor Abbott hopes to begin Phase 2 of the Open Texas plan as early as May 18th but has cautioned...
many times that the case data Texas sees between now and then will be critical in making that decision.

Thanks to all citizens and business owners...For doing your best to get this right!

With the full support of the Rowlett City Council, Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian revised the City of Rowlett Disaster Declaration and accompanying Orders to mirror those Orders issued by Governor Abbott on April 27th.

Services reopening today 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 1st 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.

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

FRIDAY@5 ~ FOR 05.01.20
Our Purpose Is To Serve! ~ The Friday @ 5 is published by the City Manager’s Office
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.

Updated 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.

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◆ Self-swab public testing sites have been implemented at the Ellis Davis Field House (EDFH), located at 9191 S. Polk St., and American Airlines Center (AAC), located at 2500 Victory Plaza Parking Lot E. These tests are less invasive, safer, and help preserve PPE supplies. Beginning on April 16th, the EDFH and AAC sites 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.
◆ NEW OPERATING HOURS: Both sites are operating Monday - Saturday from 8am to 5pm and Sunday from 8am to 12pm, 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 Dallascftresults@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 Thursday, April 30th:
National – 1,068,696 cases (126,122 recovered), 62,870 deaths
Texas – 28,087 (13,353 recovered), 782 deaths
North Texas – 8,050 cases (1,647 recovered), 239 deaths
Dallas County – 3,531 cases (recovered n/a), 104 deaths

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City of Garland – 380 cases (170 recovered), 10 deaths
Rockwall County – 91 cases (36 recovered), 2 deaths
City of Rowlett – 49 cases (21 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 27 women and 22 men. They range in age from late teens to 80’s. 16 are under 40, 22 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. Life Message is the largest distributor of food for The North Texas Food Bank, which is also suffering greatly during this pandemic.

REMEMBER – North Texas Giving Tuesday – MAY 5
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: Mon, Wed, Sat – 10am to Noon
Tuesday evening from 6 to 8pm
Hand Free – Drive thru service!

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!

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<td>Canned Fruit</td>
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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

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.
Important information on business funding mechanisms that are available are on the website, 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.

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.

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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

Pets and their health questions – 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 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.

REMINDE RS:

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.


#MyRowlett  Rowlett  #BetterTogether

FRIDAY @ 5 CONTINUED – OTHER NEWS AROUND ROWLETT 05.01.20

CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE

Don’t forget to fill out your 2020 Census and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same! There’s still time!

As a reminder – no May 2nd election will be held. Governor Abbott authorized that election to be postponed due to the concern of COVID-19. It will now be held on Saturday, November 3rd.

Some of you may have had a little time on your hands and spent it sprucing up your yards and creating “smart yards”. If you are one of those residents or know someone who has done this, you might want to apply or nominate your neighbor for the Texas Smart Yard Award. This award recognizes those whose yards are in harmony with the Texas native flora, soil and topography. Awarded through an application or nomination process, the Texas Smart Yard winner must meet the same criteria as Property of the Season in addition to following these Smart Practices.

The award is chosen by a committee of Code Enforcement Officers and Keep Rowlett Beautiful representatives from the submitted nominations.

Apply or nominate your neighbor!  Texas Smart Yard Winners
Attention Rowlett teens - are you looking for ways to give back to the community? If so, we have a spot for you: the Rowlett Youth Advisory Council (RYAC) is now accepting applications!

Comprised of 12 regular members who are sophomores, juniors or seniors appointed by the City Council in May, RYAC members will serve one-year terms from August to June of the following academic year.

Duties and responsibilities of the RYAC include: acting in an advisory capacity to provide observations and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the needs and wants of Rowlett’s youth; educating the youth participants in the local political process; members will serve as messengers for the City of Rowlett and assist City Council in outreach to the youth in Rowlett; and will assist the City by volunteering for local City events.

Submission should be via email to CitySec@rowlett.com or by mail to CSO/Boards & Commissions Applications, 4000 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088. Interviews may be conducted virtually – details to follow. Deadline for applications is May 17.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Retrocade is making progress at Dalrock Crossing. Check out more pictures on their Facebook page @retrocadeoftexas.

LIBRARY

Books and movies TO GO from your Rowlett Public Library! The Library BUILDING may be closed to the public right now, but your Library staff continues to find innovative ways to bring their programming and services to YOU! And NOW – you can actually check out books, movies and music again! Rowlett Public Library began Curbside Checkout on Monday, April 27th.

DETAILS:
➢ We’ll give you a call when your items are collected and bagged.
➢ Let us know when you arrive at the Library (or call before you leave) and staff will bring your goodies out to you.
➢ Curbside Pickup times are Monday – Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Return items may be placed in the overnight drop to the side of the entrance.

Fine print: If your family has multiple library cards, please submit a separate request for each card. Blocks on materials for fines and fees have been temporarily waived while the facility is closed.

When you arrive for pickup, staff will confirm your account information over the phone, get a description of your vehicle, then bring your items outside and place them on a cart for you to pick up.

Materials will be checked out for six weeks.

Questions? Contact the Library at 972-412-6161, circulation@rowlett.com, or text 972-200-3860.
Although staff miss having patrons visit the Library, we are glad that everyone is staying safe at home! We’re available at 972-412-6161 AND you can now send a text to staff at 972-200-3860. To help individuals access our online services, we’ve removed blocks for anyone with excessive fines or fees. We also are accepting online applications for a Temporary Digital Access Library Card at rowlett.com/library.

To sign up for email newsletters from the Library, please visit https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/1605/Newsletter-Sign-Up

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Make sure you’re following #rowlettathome for creative ways to have fun while you’re at home! You can find #rowlettathome content on both our Facebook and Instagram accounts!

Meet Raehgan, another one of our all-star employees! Raehgan coordinates all of our athletic programs – check our website, www.rowlett.com/parksandrec, for the most up-to-date information regarding athletics and all of our other programs! To learn more about Raehgan, head on over to our Instagram/Facebook accounts!

In order to keep all guests safe, the opening of the WetZone has been postponed. Check back often! www.wetzonewaterpark.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Crime Reports – Rowlett PD provides a link to the weekly crime reports so you, our citizens, can be informed about what is going on in your City.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND PGBT NORTH BOUND RIGHT TURN LANE PROJECT

The contractor started with the installation of the Silva Cells on the south side of Main St. Weather permitting, all located on the south side should be in place by Friday, May 8th. Cement stabilization of the right turn lane is complete and ready for the 4” asphalt cap to be laid.

MILLER RD. 20”FORCE MAIN & 24” GRAVITY SEWER PROJECT

The contractor cored into the existing manhole on Miller Rd. and started with the installation of the 24” gravity sewer line; approximately 200 of the 1370 linear feet of sewer pipe has been installed.

LAKE COUNTRY ESTATES PHASE 2 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Project is in the process of close out.