

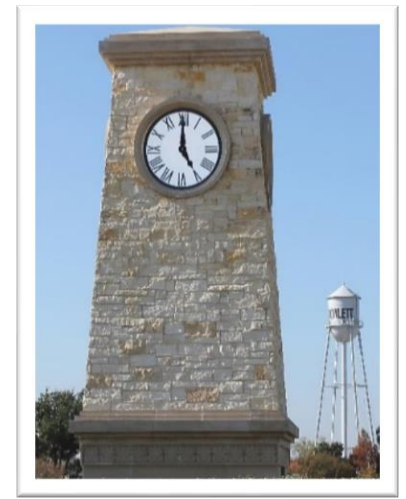
# A Weekly Update from City Hall

FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

## SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 13

05.13.20



### A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



*“It is encouraging to see our Rowlett businesses, restaurants and retail establishments begin to responsibly resume operations. Please continue to support our local economy whenever possible – we have interesting boutiques, delicious restaurants offering a wide variety of cuisine, and great retail options right here at home. The avenues by which we support our fellow Rowlett community members may have changed just a bit - for example, delivery and contactless curbside pick-up remain great alternatives to the dine-in experience – but our commitment to each other remains strong and constant. #StaySafe #StayHome #StayInformed”*

Check out the [Special Edition Spotlight on Rowlett](#) for May – this month Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian and City Manager Brian Funderburk discuss all of the current COVID-19 updates and information to date.



### WHAT'S NEW...



### **DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE AT ROWLETT WALMART (2501 LAKEVIEW PARKWAY) BEGINNING FRIDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

- ✓ Testing available Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- ✓ 7-9am (the days/hours could increase depending on demand)
- ✓ Appointment is required – visit

[DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com](http://DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com) (registration/appointments for our Rowlett location site will open Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 hours before the first appointment)

#### ☛ Who can be tested?

The drive-through testing sites is available to those who meet CDC and state and local guidelines on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers, front line workers and others with symptoms of COVID-19, as well as those in high risk groups without symptoms.

#### ☛ What type of test is it?

The site will use a self-administered nasal swab test that will allow those being tested to swab their own nose onsite while in their vehicles, observed by a trained Walmart pharmacist to ensure the sample is taken correctly, and drop the sealed sample into a container on their way out of the drive-thru site.

#### ☛ How long does it take to get results?

Walmart's lab partner, [eTrueNorth](#), delivers results in three-five days. Patients will be notified of their test results and instructed how to proceed should they test positive.

### **Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency – 9<sup>th</sup> Amended Order**

### **Important City Meetings**

#### **City Council** –

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

#### **Special Council Meetings**

**Annual Strategy Planning Session** -  
May 16, 8:00am-5:00pm  
Special Meetings Will be Scheduled as Needed Going Forward

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

**Board of Adjustment** – Will meet as 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](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**ALL OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



## WHAT'S NEW...continued

☛ Are Walmart associates at the test sites?

Walmart pharmacists are observing the swabbing. Other Walmart associates are helping with on-site support tasks such as directing traffic and ID checks at the testing sites.

☛ Is there a cost for the test?

There is no out-of-pocket cost to the individual.

☛ Is Walmart being paid for these sites?

No. Walmart is donating their parking lot space, site supplies and materials, and their associates' time.

Thank you to our community partners at Walmart for bringing this testing site to Rowlett!



### FREE COVID-19 TESTING –

WHEN: Tuesday, May 19th

WHERE: Lake Pointe Church  
[701 E. Interstate 30](#)  
Rockwall, TX 75087

TIME: 10am to 6pm

REGISTER: [www.txcovidtest.org](http://www.txcovidtest.org) or  
Call 512.883.2400

Tests are conducted by appointment only and are free for anyone. 200 tests will be available.

## 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](#) – May 5, April 28, 21, 13, 7, & 1; March 30, 23, & 20

[Spot Light on Rowlett Special Edition](#) – May 2020

[Reopen Texas Video by Mayor & Chamber President](#) – April 28, 2020

[Coronavirus Information](#) – Texas Health & Human Services Site

[Rowlett Walmart COVID-19 Testing 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](#)

[Homeowner's Assistance](#) – Information to Help Keep your Home

**NEXT SPECIAL MEETING – ANNUAL STRATEGY PLANNING SESSION-SATURDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup>** The City Council will hold their [Annual Strategy Planning Session](#) at the Rowlett Community Centre on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 5pm.

- Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements set forth by the CDC, the City Council Strategy and Planning Session will only be available for public participation via a teleconference link. The public may listen to the meeting live by **calling 877-853-5247** and entering **Meeting ID#: 859 0113 7218**
- To provide comment for the meeting, please send an email to [CitizenInput@rowlett.com](mailto:CitizenInput@rowlett.com) by 3:30pm on Friday, May 15, 2020. Please state whether your comment is regarding a specific agenda item or a general comment to the Council. Your comment will be read into the record during the meeting (must be within the 3-minute time limit). There will be no comments taken during the meeting.



**MORE OPENINGS...**On Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Governor Greg Abbott issued a [new Executive Order](#) to support his Open Texas plan and lifted the restraints for more businesses to open on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Reopening at 12:01am, May 18<sup>th</sup>:

- Services provided by office workers in offices that operate at up to the greater of five individuals, or 25% of the total office workforce; provided, however, that the individuals maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Manufacturing services, for facilities that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility.
- Gyms and exercise facilities and classes that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the gym or exercise facility; provided, however, that locker rooms and shower facilities must remain closed,



## WHAT'S NEW...continued

but restrooms may open. Customers must wear gloves covering their whole hand, all equipment must be disinfected after each use, and any equipment brought in (such as a yoga mat), must be disinfected before and after use. Individuals must maintain appropriate social distancing.

Bars, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, sexually oriented businesses, or interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys, video arcades, amusement parks, water parks, or splash pads, are to remain closed as guidelines for reopening have not yet been established.

The Governor also clarified that weddings and wedding receptions are part of the currently reopened services:

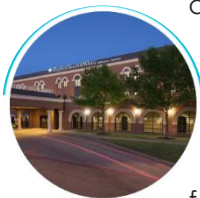
- Wedding venues and the services required to conduct weddings; provided, however, that for weddings held indoors other than at a church, congregation, or house of worship, the facility may operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility.
- Wedding reception services, for facilities that operate at up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the facility; provided, however, that the occupancy limits do not apply to the outdoor areas of a wedding reception or to outdoor wedding receptions.

The Governor's Executive 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, and may not allow gatherings prohibited by these orders. You may read the order, along with Governor Abbott's "[Texans Helping Texans – the Governor's Report to Open Texas](#)" at [www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19](http://www.Rowlett.com/COVID-19).

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.

Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian amended the [City of Rowlett Disaster Declaration and Orders](#), effective through May 15<sup>th</sup> in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders.

**FIRST RESPONDERS PARADE OF LIGHTS** – Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm – First responders from Rowlett, Rockwall and Garland will honor Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Lake Pointe doctors, nurses and healthcare workers serving on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic by way of a parade around the campus parking lots. Lake Pointe staff members will stand behind windows and hold signs thanking these first responders right back. The public is invited too, bring a sign to encourage and express YOUR thanks to hospital staff and the first responders as they pass by (please remember to practice appropriate social distancing and wear a face covering – the healthcare providers at Lake Pointe thank you for your consideration!).



For those along Scenic and in the neighborhoods around the hospital, please expect a LOT of first responder vehicles with lights and sirens activated as the parade slowly winds through the facility. The parade route [map](#) is available for your information.

**HOMEOWNER'S ASSISTANCE** – This site tracks policies adopted by the federal government, State of Texas, and local jurisdictions to help Texas residents stay in their homes during the pandemic and accompanying financial crisis. Please review this site if you need assistance staying in your home.



**WATERVIEW GOLF COURSE IS OPEN**...Great news, golfers – with modified operations, American Golf reopened Waterview Golf Course for play on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Limitations include:

- Maximum of 4 players per group.
- 6' minimum social distancing required throughout the property.
- Tee times will be spaced 12 minutes apart to allow for proper social distancing between groups.
- 1 rider per golf cart.

For more information and to book a tee time, please visit [www.waterviewgc.com](http://www.waterviewgc.com).





## REVELANT INFORMATION...



### COVID-19 Testing Information

#### Testing

Counterfeit COVID-19 and antibody testing kits are now becoming increasingly available online and throughout the DFW area. **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). Questions about Testing? Here is the [Texas Health and Human Services Testing Capacity Overview](#)

#### Drive-thru Rapid Test Sites

- ❖ Rowlett Walmart – [2501 Lakeview Pkwy](#) – Open Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 7am to 9am weather permitting
  - 🇺🇸 Appointment is required – visit [doineedacovid19test.com](#) (registration/appointments for our Rowlett location site will open Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 hours before the first appointment)

#### Public Drive-thru Testing Sites

A listing of public drive-thru testing sites available here: [Texas Department of State Health Services Test Site Locator](#). Self-swab tests have been implemented at the Ellis Davis Field House, [9191 S. Polk St.](#), and American Airlines Center, [2617 Victory Ave.](#) Parking Lot E, public testing sites. These tests are less invasive, safer, and help preserve PPE supplies. Testing criteria includes:

- 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.
- First responders, DART drivers, healthcare workers, grocery store and essential retail store workers, regardless of symptoms.
- All others must exhibit at least one of the [CDC guidance on the Symptoms of Coronavirus](#).
- 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 Monday-Saturday, 8am to 5pm, Sunday 8am-Noon unless otherwise determined by testing capacity, which is 500 per day, or weather conditions.

**If you have been tested at either of the public drive-thru test sites in Dallas, you will receive a phone call from the RESULTS CENTER in 3-7 days.** Visit the following sites to download a copy of your results:

American Airlines Center – <https://myquest.questdiagnostics.com/web/home>.

Ellis David Field House – [www.labcorp.com/results](http://www.labcorp.com/results).

Individuals that have not received their results after 7 days may request assistance via [email](#) with the following info: Name, Location of Test, Date/Time of Test, Phone Number.

#### At-home 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 [here](#) 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 provided 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 May 4, twelve serology (antibody) tests have received an EUA. **NONE** are at-home tests. The FDA has released a summary page for serology tests that have been issued an EUA; [here](#) is the information on these tests.

It's important to understand that a negative result on a standard COVID-19 test is not a waiver for symptomatic persons to cease self-quarantine and/or social distancing measures. Additionally, it does not mean that a person who receives a negative result on one test won't receive a positive result from the exact



same type of test performed five minutes later. Similarly, a positive result on an IgM and/or IgG antibody test does not mean that a person is completely immune or, in the case of a positive IgG result, recovered.

The following confirmed COVID-19 case counts reflect numbers as of 7pm Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>:

National – 1,367,927 cases (recovered n/a), 82,246 deaths  
 Texas – 41,048 cases (22,674 recovered), 1,133 deaths  
 North Texas – 13,245 cases (5,181 recovered), 353 deaths  
 Dallas County – 6,359 cases (recovered n/a), 148 deaths  
 City of Garland – 516 cases (308 recovered), 14 deaths  
 Rockwall County – 126 cases (56 recovered), 5 deaths  
 City of Rowlett – 65 cases (33 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 37 women and 28 men (no gender data available for one Rowlett case). They range in age from late teens to 80's. 20 are under 40, 29 are between 40 to 59, and 16 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).



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 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...

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



[COVID-19 Resources for Employers and Businesses](#) has been updated including Financial Assistance.

Having an online business presence is more important than ever. Check out the above link to view articles on the best e-commerce platforms for small businesses and whether or not it's time to launch an online store. There are PDF resources on the above as well as other small business topics on our [Business Retention & Expansion](#) page. Don't forget to update your days/hours of operation on your website, any social media accounts you have, and on Google, as well as share your COVID-19 Safety Plan so your customers know you're serious about mitigating risk as much as possible.

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 Local!

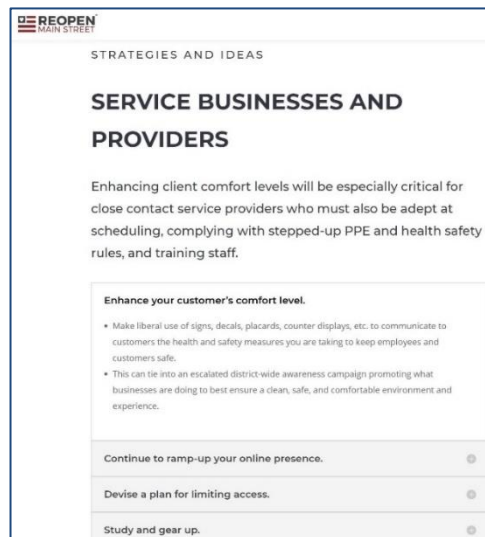
### [Rowlett Food Establishments Open for Business](#)

Check out [ReOpen Main Street's Strategies & Ideas for Retail Establishments, Food Establishments, and Service-Based Businesses](#)



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, contact the Rowlett Chamber at [www.rowlettchamber.com](http://www.rowlettchamber.com) or 972.475.3200



## LIBRARY

The Rowlett Public Library now offers **Curbside Checkout**. **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](http://www.rowlett.com/covid-19)

**Business Protocol Information** – this information is intended to assist our business community

**Essential Household Activities** questions – Email [cac@rowlett.com](mailto:cac@rowlett.com) or call 972-412-6100

**Essential Business Activities** questions – Email [jtucker@rowlett.com](mailto: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](http://www.RowlettReady.com) or email [needs@rowlettready.com](mailto:needs@rowlettready.com) if you need local assistance from volunteers.

**RO**wlett **BU**siness **ST**imulus Grant Program Information – [www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST](http://www.RowlettReady.com/ROBUST)

**Aid Organizations** – [Life Message](#), [The North Texas Food Bank](#), [The Veterans Resource and Outreach Center](#), [Hope in Hand Food Pantry](#), [North Texas Behavioral Health Authority](#)

**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](http://www.dart.org/mod) or call DART Customer Service at (214) 979-1111

**Dallas County Hotline** – Email: [tenanthotline@dallascounty.org](mailto:tenanthotline@dallascounty.org)

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

**HOMEOWNER'S ASSISTANCE** – Information to keep your home.

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

[Texans Helping Texans – The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#)

[Hospital Capacity Executive Order](#)

[Travel Executive Order](#)

[Guidance for Houses of Worship](#)

[Previous Orders](#)

**Don't Be A Victim To These Scams, Check Scams, Latest Scam Alert - Fake Tests**

Visit [www.theseniorsource.org](http://www.theseniorsource.org) and [www.ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://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:**

**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.

**FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CENSUS** – [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

#MyRowlett  #BetterTogether

