

A Weekly Update from City Hall

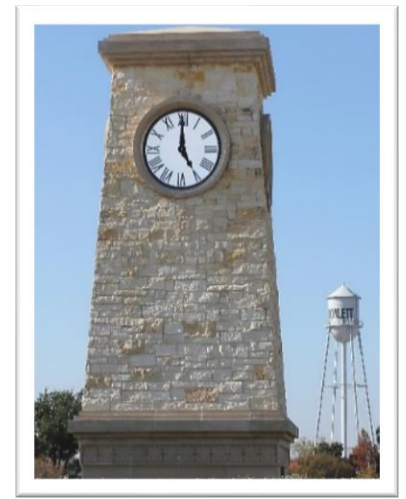
FRIDAY @ 5 – MIDWEEK EDITION

SPECIAL EDITION

COVID-19 – No. 14

05.20.20

Rowlett
TEXAS
THE place to live, work and play.



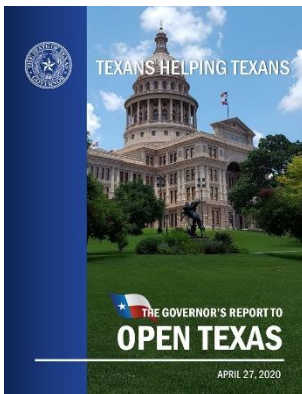
A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TAMMY DANA-BASHIAN...



“As the opening of our economy progresses, we must continue to care for one another and to protect our most vulnerable. Together, we’ve done a great job so far! Please maintain your exemplary social distancing efforts and wear a face covering when you are out and about supporting our local Rowlett businesses, restaurants and services.

I hope you will join me for our virtual Memorial Day Ceremony on the [City of Rowlett Parks and Recreation Facebook page](#) at 10am on Monday, May 25. We may not be able to gather together in person right now, but I do look forward to continuing our tradition of honoring the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in the U.S. military. #StaySafe #StayHome #StayInformed”

WHAT'S NEW...



PHASE II OF THE OPEN TEXAS PLAN... On May 18th, Governor Abbott gave the green light for additional businesses and services to resume operations as part of the [Open Texas](#) plan.

☛ In addition to those already reopening on Monday, May 18th, the following may also Operate; with the restrictions and protocols spelled out here:

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>,
effective immediately:

☑ Massage establishments, other massage services by licensed massage therapists or other licensed persons, electrolysis, waxing, tattoo studios, piercing studios, and hair loss treatment and growth services.

☑ Childcare services. This includes regulated childcare centers, temporary licensed childcare centers, home providers, and youth development organizations (i.e. YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs).

☑ Youth Clubs, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA, and Girls Inc., may hold meetings. Meetings held indoors should not exceed more than 10 individuals at any time, provided 6 feet of distance between individuals is maintained; staggering meetings to comply with the 10 individual limit is encouraged.

☛ Effective Friday, May 22nd:

→ Bars or similar establishments may operate for in-person service up to 25% of the total listed occupancy of the establishment. 🚫 Any interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, interactive games, and video arcades, must remain closed. 🚫 Interactive amusement venues, such as video arcades, amusement parks, or water parks, remain closed.

Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency – 10th Amended Order

Important City Meetings

City Council –

Regular Meetings: June 2 & 16; 5:30 pm *check [agenda](#) on* Friday before mtg

Special Council Meetings:

Friday, May 22 @ 1pm

Special Meetings Will be Scheduled as Needed

Virtual Planning & Zoning Meeting:
May 26 @ 6:45pm *check [agenda](#) on Friday*

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

****NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS****

All meetings will be held virtually – until further notice.

Watch them on Rowlett's Cable Channel [RIN16](#) or streaming online through our [website](#).



WHAT'S NEW...continued

- The occupancy limits for restaurants increases to 50%.
- Bowling alleys, bingo halls, simulcasting, and skating rinks may operate up to 25% of their total listed occupancy. 🚫 Interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, interactive games, and video arcades, must remain closed.
- Rodeos and equestrian events. Spectators are allowed at 25% of the total listed occupancy of the venue, and outdoor venues may operate at up to 25% of the normal operating limits as determined by the facility owner. 🚫 Larger gatherings that include a rodeo or equestrian event, such as a county fair, are not authorized at this time.
- Aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities, may operate up to 25% of the total listed occupancy (or, for zoos, 25 percent of the normal operating limits as determined by the zoo owner), and must close 🚫 any components of the zoo, aquarium, natural cavern, or similar facility that have interactive functions or exhibits, including child play areas, amusement and video game areas. 🚫 Indoor areas of zoos, other than restrooms, must remain closed. Local public zoos, aquariums, natural caverns, and similar facilities may operate only if permitted by the local government.

👈 Effective Sunday, May 31st:

- ☑ Day and Overnight Youth Camps may operate with health and safety protocols in place.
- ☑ Youth Sports (with restrictions).
- ☑ Professional basketball, baseball, car racing, football, golf, softball, and tennis leagues may apply to the Department of State Health Services for approval to hold professional sporting events in Texas without in-person spectators.

For more information and to view the Open Texas Checklist for each of these reopened businesses and services, go to <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>



DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING AVAILABLE AT ROWLETT WALMART (2501 LAKEVIEW PARKWAY) BEGAN FRIDAY, MAY 15TH

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

[DoINeedaCOVID19Test.com](https://www.doineedaCOVID19test.com)

👈 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



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 19, 14, 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 – Rowlett Protocols to Reopen Businesses in Rowlett

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



WHAT'S NEW...continued

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.

☛ 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!

REOPEN ROWLETT RESPONSIBLY...CITY OF ROWLETT PROTOCOLS FOR REOPENED BUSINESSES under Governor Abbott's Open Texas Order: Below is a list of helpful protocols and information for businesses as Rowlett reopens.

- o [Retail](#)
- o [Restaurant](#)
- o [Barber Shops, Hair Salons, Nail Salons, Tanning Salons](#)
- o [Houses of Worship, Funeral Services, Burials and Memorials](#)
- o [Outdoor Sports](#)
- o [Parks and Bodies of Water](#)
- o [Single Person Office Facilities](#)
- o [Licensed Health Care Professionals](#)



[Governor Abbott's Texans Helping Texans Guidelines to Open Texas](#)

NEXT SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL – May 22nd – The City Council will be discussing the plan to reopen City facilities and options to allocate over \$3 million from the Coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security (CARES) Act. The meeting will start at 1pm and will be held virtually (see instructions below). The agenda is available [here](#).

- About the CARES Act: “The CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020. This over \$2 trillion economic relief package was designed to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides *fast and direct* economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for American industries.

On May 22, 2020, the Governor announced that Texas would allocate a portion of these funds directly to Texas cities and counties (attachment in the [staff report](#)). As a result, the City of Rowlett, working in conjunction with the State of Texas and Dallas/Rockwall counties, will receive approximately \$3.8 million to directly help residents and businesses in Rowlett. The purpose of this item is to discuss the possible programs the funds can be used for and receive direction from City Council for implementation.”

- *Virtual Meeting Instructions:* Due to the public health emergency and to conform with the social distancing requirements, the City Council meetings will be held via teleconferencing. The public can view live on the City's website (<https://www.ci.rowlett.tx.us/397/Streaming-Video>) or via RTN16. The public may listen to the meeting live by **calling 877-853-5247** and entering **Meeting ID#: 814 7849 7281**
 - o To provide comment for the meeting, please send an email to CitizenInput@rowlett.com by noon on Friday. 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.



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 14th, 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.

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 19th:

National – 1,527,723 cases (289,392 recovered), 91,872 deaths
 Texas – 49,912 cases (29,359 recovered), 1,369 deaths
 North Texas – 16,140 cases (7,297 recovered), 432 deaths
 Dallas County – 7,904 cases (recovered n/a), 191 deaths
 City of Garland – 635 cases (375 recovered), 16 deaths
 Rockwall County – 153 cases (87 recovered), 9 deaths
 City of Rowlett – 72 cases (43 recovered), 2 deaths

Rowlett cases include 40 women and 32 men (no gender data available for one Rowlett case). They range in age from late teens to 80's. 24 are under 40, 30 are between 40 to 59, and 18 are 60 +.

LATEST SCAM ALERT – FAKE TESTS – 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](#).

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.



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



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

Resources for Employers and Businesses:

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

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

[Rowlett Chamber](#)

[Keep Your Clients and Staff Safe from the Virus](#) – replay of video with RN

Sonja Knappage

[Business Retention & Expansion](#)

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

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

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

Essential Business Activities questions – Email jtucker@rowlett.com

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 – May 14, 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

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

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>

HOMEOWNER'S ASSISTANCE – Information to keep your home.

Governor's Orders – [Open Texas Executive Order - Phase II](#)

[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 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:

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.

