



Representative John Turner

District 114 | Update | March 19, 2020

Date: March 19, 2020
Subject: District 114 COVID-19 Resources

Friends and neighbors,

Below you will find resources as a reference for you and your family regarding COVID-19/the coronavirus.

STATE & FEDERAL

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - The [CDC has a dedicated page](#) that is regularly updated with the latest information.
- Office of the Governor
 - On Friday, March 13, Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster activating state emergency planning and resources. [Click here to view the Disaster Declaration.](#)
 - On Thursday, March 19, four executive orders were issued to limit social gatherings to 10 people, limit visitors to nursing homes except for critical care, prohibit dining in at restaurants (while allowing takeout), and temporarily close schools statewide. [Click here to view the executive orders.](#)
- Texas Department of State Health Services
 - At the state level, DSHS maintains a page that has up-to-date information as well as resources and guidance. <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.
 - DSHS has also created a hotline that is open from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, at (877) 570-9779.

CITY & COUNTY

- Dallas County Health and Human Services:
 - DCHHS maintains a [dedicated coronavirus webpage](#) for up-to-date information and guidance.
 - They also have a coronavirus help number at (972) 692-2780.
- Dallas County Judge
 - Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins has a [dedicated page](#) for coronavirus updates that include the latest orders and guidelines.
 - Dallas County issued a [Public Health Emergency Declaration](#) on Thursday, March 12, which included an [order prohibiting certain public gatherings](#), and social distancing recommendations.

- Dallas County has also [ordered the closure of bars and restaurants](#) as of Monday, March 16.
- City of Dallas
 - The City maintains a [coronavirus webpage](#), and has issued orders and guidelines similar to the County. At that page, you can also sign up for email or text notifications from the City.
 - Dallas tap water is safe to drink. Conventional water treatment methods, including filtration and disinfection, are used at all of DWU's drinking water treatment plants. These processes remove or inactivate bacteria and viruses.

SCHOOLS

- Dallas ISD and Richardson ISD school campuses are closed indefinitely. See separate sections below for more information about each district.
- The Governor recently [waived STAAR testing requirements](#) in light of school closures across the state.
- The Governor also [waived other regulations over work-study programs](#) to ensure that those students continue to receive support.
- Parents of students with disabilities whose special education services are affected should know that their children still have rights and protections despite any disruptions caused by the outbreak. Visit [Disability Rights Texas](#) for more information.
- Texas Education Agency [website](#) dedicated to support and guidance for school districts.

DALLAS ISD

- Starting on Monday, March 23, meals will be distributed on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the entrance of selected schools while the district remains closed. Meal pick up locations can be found at <https://www.dallasisd.org/fcns>.
- Family Service Clinics located at certain campuses will remain open and can be found at <https://www.dallasisd.org/youthandfamilycenters>.
- Important updates at <https://www.dallasisd.org/covid19>.

RICHARDSON ISD

- RISD is working on a plan to provide meal service during closure to students with food insecurities. More information to come later as details are confirmed.
- Beginning Wednesday March 25, RISD students will be able to continue lessons at home through the use of their school-issued devices in grades 3-8 and/or through age

appropriate lessons available through the RISD website for all students in grades Pre-K through 12.

- Important updates at www.risd.org/cv19.

MEDICAL

- [Parkland Hospital](#)
 - Parkland implemented drive through COVID-19 testing by appointment only for current Parkland patients who meet the medically necessary criteria with a Parkland physician's order.
 - Parkland patients can contact the COVID-19 Patient Line at 214-590-8060. At this time, this service is only available to current Parkland patients. Unscheduled, drop-in appointments for the general public will not be available at this time.
- [Children's Health](#)
- [UT Southwestern Medical Center](#)
- [Texas Health Resources](#)
- [Medical City Healthcare](#)
- [Baylor Scott & White Health](#)

BUSINESSES & IMPACTED EMPLOYEES

- If your employment has been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19), you can apply for benefits either online at [Unemployment Benefits Services](#) or by calling the Texas Workforce Commission's Tele-Center at 800-939-6631 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central Time Monday through Friday.
- Texas is working to qualify for the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19> for more information.

UTILITIES

- Dallas Water Utilities has [suspended water shut-offs](#) until further notice.
- TXU Energy and Vistra are offering customer assistance, including waiving late fees and extending payment due dates. For more information [click here](#).
- Atmos Energy has temporarily suspended natural gas disconnections. For more information, visit: <https://www.atmosenergy.com/customer-service/get-help-paying-your-bill>.

- You can get free Spectrum internet for 60 days if you live in a household with a K-12 or college student. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

2-1-1 TEXAS

- Specialists are available 24/7 to answer non-medical coronavirus questions. If they can't answer a question they will refer it to state and local health department help lines.
- Dial 2-1-1, or (877) 541-7905 or visit <http://www.211.org/services/covid19> for additional information.

DRIVERS' LICENSES AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION

- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Driver License Offices across the state are closed. This temporary closure will not apply to those seeking an initial Commercial Driver License (CDL). DPS offices that provide CDL testing will remain open solely for the purpose of providing initial CDLs.
- Governor Greg Abbott has announced that Texas is waiving certain rules relating to vehicle registration, parking placards for persons with disabilities, and titling to aid the state's efforts to combat COVID-19. These suspensions will allow Texans to avoid penalties for failure to timely title or register a vehicle, or renew a parking placard. [Click here for more information.](#)
- DPS has temporarily extended the expiration of any Texas-issued identification card, driver license, commercial driver license or election identification certificate during the disaster declaration. [Click here for more information.](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

- WFAA LIST: [Dallas-Fort Worth area business closings](#)
- Dallas Morning News: [Latest Updates](#)
- Harvard Medical School: [Coronavirus Resource Center](#)
- World Health Organization: [Health Topics](#)

While we are working remotely, consistent with relevant public health guidelines, we remain accessible and our numbers are (214) 234-7625 (Dallas office) and (512) 463-0576 (Austin office), and our office email is District114.Turner@House.Texas.Gov.

Sincerely,

John Turner
State Representative
House District 114

Our Office's Contact Information

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