



April 10, 2020

SPECIAL EDITION - 5



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Many North Texans are celebrating Easter and Passover this week. While our celebrations may look different this year, love, hope, and renewal of season and spirit are still among us.

This past month has been a frenzy of change that has ironically created a stillness forcing many to slowdown, ponder, and reflect. I have used this time to connect with health care experts, local, state, and federal decision makers, displaced workers, business and industry leaders, education experts and leaders, people of faith, parents and other caregivers. I have been encouraged by the passion and vigor I have witnessed from those who are working to offer real solutions to help real people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to encourage all of you and let you know that while your challenge may be unique, no one is alone and no one is expected to handle this struggle alone. We have witnessed a call to action unlike anything I have seen resulting in so many individuals and organizations ready to help a friend or neighbor in need. I have heard wonderful stories of businesses donating food, masks, hand sanitizer, etc. to help our frontline workers and medical professionals. And I have heard stories from people who have helped others their whole lives and only now themselves need a helping hand. The stories range from heartwarming to heart-wrenching, but they all have one thing in common - bright, understanding, compassionate people in our

local communities, our state, and our nation coming together in an unprecedented way to combat this virus and help those who have been affected by it. We will get through this crisis. Together we are strong. Together, we will overcome.

While my staff and I are abiding by the federally recommended guidelines for social distancing, we continue to serve by returning calls, answering emails, and sending information with resources to help you. I appreciate hearing from you and welcome your questions, comments, and concerns. Please call my office at (972) 908-3424 or email me at [Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov).

I appreciate all of you and thank you for your valuable input, your dedication to your families and your communities, and your efforts to keep us safe and moving forward. Blessings to all of you.



## COVID-19 STATS

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is [tracking COVID-19 cases](#) and updates its site with the latest information each day by noon (CST). As of today (April 10, 2020)

- Texas has 11,671 confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- There are 406 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Collin County residents, and
- There are 1,432 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Dallas County residents.

## STATE OF TEXAS



[Texas' online information site](#) has a new page offering information for Texans impacted by COVID-19. For a complete list of updates, programs, and services to address the COVID-19 crisis, please visit this website.

## EDUCATION UPDATE

### **Education Resources for Families**

Below are some ideas I recently shared on my Facebook page that I hope will help families make the most of this time.

A natural response during times of uncertainty is the human desire to want to help, and this is true of kids as well. Parents are busy working or looking for work, educating children, keeping up with friends and family, and making sure the needs of everyone in the household are addressed. Involving kids in this work will fill them with a sense of purpose and pride knowing that they, too, can make a positive difference.

Below are a few ways to involve your kids to show them strength, give them some independence, and educate them as you raise them to one day become adults.

- Involve kids in the preparation of meals. Kids can help create meal plans for the week by looking at recipes, taking inventory of the food currently in the house, measuring ingredients, and light-cooking.
- Charge your kids with providing the evening entertainment. Rather than relying on screen time, have your kids research important historical figures or events and deliver a speech or put on a play to both entertain and show what they've learned. Children may also serve as performers as they practice their instruments or learn to sing a new song.

- Discuss current events with your child and examine the decisions that must be made to promote public health and a strong economy and the pros and cons of these decisions. Consider what may be done going forward to improve outcomes for future events. Discuss who the heroes are and consider ways to honor these individuals.
- Have your child write a letter to a loved one who is shut-in or make a card to send to someone in a nursing home.
- Research the needs listed by nonprofits and churches and encourage your child to fill a grocery bag with items around the house to donate to help decrease the burden someone else is experiencing.
- Involve your children with tutoring. They can help a younger sibling with homework or read a bedtime story to a younger friend or family member via FaceTime or other virtual platform. Your child may even reach out to a former teacher to see if there is an opportunity to help tutor one of their students or provide encouragement.
- Use chalk or make banners to display from a window with inspiring artwork or writings for others to enjoy during their walks around the neighborhood.
- Help your child dream of opportunities after the shut-in by researching places to visit once you are able. This could be someplace local, a road trip, or somewhere else that could one day be a once-in-a-lifetime vacation.

- Go on a nature scavenger hunt around the neighborhood looking for insects, plants, leaves, animals, rocks, etc. Discuss how items found in nature work together to create your local ecosystem.
- Research different careers and put together a budget for someone working in that job that includes housing, transportation costs, food, utilities, entertainment, etc. Help your child understand how to prioritize with limited resources and prepare for unforeseen events.