



July 8, 2020

EDITION - 17



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

These words define the birth of our nation, and are reiterated by Martin Luther King, Jr., in one of the greatest speeches of all time, “I Have a Dream.” I reflected on these words as I celebrated the Fourth of July this past weekend, and am both nostalgic and hopeful for the future of our nation.

Our Founding Fathers set the stage for bravery and resolve in our nation. In the famous words of President Ronald Reagan, “And that it’s important for us, too, to be brave; not so much the bravery of the battlefield, I mean the bravery of brotherhood.”

These times call for bravery, and I am in awe of the bravery I have witnessed. Our first responders who risk their health, well-being, and even their lives are brave in their work to protect us. Our military, which continues to sacrifice to serve and protect the freedoms of Americans and people all over the world exhibit this bravery. And American citizens, who sacrifice to ensure the well-being of their families and their neighbors and pursue their opportunities and happiness are nothing short of brave. Stay brave, and let freedom ring!



STATE OF TEXAS UPDATES

Governor's Executive Order

Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order on July 2, 2020 requiring people across Texas over the age of 10 to wear a covering over the nose and mouth in all public places for all counties with more than 20 positive cases of COVID-19, which includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant counties.

There are exceptions to the face covering requirement, which includes any person who has a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face mask, recreation activities for the purpose of exercising outdoors, swimming in a pool, lake, or other body of water, driving alone or with people who are in the same household as the driver, or eating at a restaurant. No one can be jailed for non-compliance, but they may be fined.

Of note, this does not apply to churches.

The governor also [extended the disaster declaration](#) to prohibit outdoor gatherings of 10 or more people and require them to socially distance at least six feet apart. These gatherings are "prohibited unless the mayor of the city in which the gathering is held, or the county judge in the case of a gathering in an unincorporated area, approves the gathering, and such approval can be made subject to certain conditions or restrictions not inconsistent with the executive order."

Texas Education Agency Guidelines for the 2020-21 School Year

The Texas Education Agency issued [comprehensive guidelines](#) for on-campus instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. These guidelines include the following:

- Provide for daily on-campus learning for all students. Students are still required to meet 90% attendance requirement (some exceptions apply) in order to promote to the next grade level.
- Provide a remote learning option for families at the beginning of the school year or at any point as the year progresses. Families choosing this option may be asked to commit to remote instruction for a full grading period (6

weeks or 9 weeks), but will not have to make a commitment more than two weeks in advance.

- Implement certain health and safety procedures, including screening, for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to each campus. Schools will also be required to follow any forthcoming executive orders issued by the Governor.

Additionally, TEA is providing districts with resources including reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses, PPE equipment and supplies, online TEKS-aligned learning tools, and teacher training at no cost to the school system.

[Click here](#) for the TEA's comprehensive public health guidance.

Texas Armed Service Scholarship Program

My office is currently accepting applications for the [Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program \(TASSP\)](#). Interested applicants should be constituents of Senate District 8 and send a completed application, resume, and a letter outlining future goals to my district office (604 S. Watters Road, Suite 100; Allen, Texas 75013) or by email (Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov) on or before July 31, 2020.

TASSP is a program created by the Legislature in 2009 to encourage students to complete a baccalaureate degree and become a commissioned member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, or U.S. Merchant Marine or become a commissioned officer in any branch of the U.S. armed services. Each legislative office has the opportunity to award a single scholarship each year for a college student who is in an ROTC program and meets the academic performance requirement.

To apply, please visit my Senate webpage and [click here](#) for a copy of the application and instructions.

ELECTION INFORMATION

2020 Primary Runoff Election

July 14, 2020 is the new Primary Runoff Election date. This election was originally scheduled for May 26, 2020 and later postponed by Governor Abbott as a result of the pandemic. Early voting began Monday, June 29, 2020 and runs through Friday, July 10, 2020. For times, sample ballots, and polling locations, [click here for Collin County](#) and [click here for Dallas County](#).

WORKFORCE INFORMATION

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The [Paycheck Protection Program](#) resumed accepting applications July 6, 2020, The new deadline to apply for a PPP loan is August 8, 2020.

Virtual Career / Job Fair

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Career Fair**

**Apply Now at
dfwjobs.com/exhibitors**

**Virtually Interact with and
Interview Qualified
Candidates for the Positions
You Need to Fill Now!**

**The event will be LIVE on
July 9th from
10:00am – 4:00pm**

Once the live virtual event ends, candidates will be able to view your company's information and express interest in your open positions until July 10th at 5:00pm CST.

A proud partner of the **American Job Center** network.
Workforce Solutions for North Texas helps to deliver meaningful training programs. Applicants and services are made available to individuals by the state. For information on services, call 1-800-393-6389 or 1-800-393-6389. For more information, visit www.dfwjobs.com.

July 9, 2020 | LIVE from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Our previous Virtual Career Fair attracted **more than 2,000 professionals** from across the North Central Texas region. Don't miss out on the opportunity to interact with, interview and hire the talent you need. Apply for your **FREE** exhibit booth by clicking the button below.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The New York Life and Cigna foundations created the [Brave of Heart Fund](#) to provide financial support in the form of charitable relief grants for the families of healthcare workers who have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19. While I hope no one in our communities will need assistance through this program, I want make our healthcare workers and their families aware of this program to provide some peace of mind and know there is support acknowledging the important work they are doing during the pandemic.

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

COVID-19 Testing Sites

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) maintains a list of COVID-19 in-person and drive-thru screening and antibody testing sites. [Click here](#) to find testing locations near you.

For more information about testing, please visit [DSHS' COVID-19 Testing Information site](#).

State and Local COVID-19 Case Numbers

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is [tracking COVID-19 cases](#) and updates it site with the latest information each day.

- Texas has 210,585 confirmed cases of COVID-19 out of 2,471,029 tests. An estimated 108,485 individuals have recovered.
- There are 3,707 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Collin County residents out of 52,850 tests. An estimated 2,758 individuals have recovered.
- There are 27,054 confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving Dallas County residents out of 208,058 tests. An estimated 15,367 individuals have recovered.

*These numbers are as of July 7, 2020.