



COVID-19 Community Update

Fort Worth Adopts COVID-19 Disaster Declaration to Align with Governor's Orders

On April 29, City Council adopted a Resolution of Public Health Emergency adopting the provisions of Executive Orders issued by Governor Abbott to align with the governor's Open Texas Plan, including [GA-18](#) and [GA-19](#).

The resolution will continue Fort Worth's state of disaster past April 30, 2020.

Per the GA-18, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

Phase I of the governor's Open Texas Plan begins Friday, May 1.

- Essential businesses and services, as defined by CISA 3.0, or a subsequent version, will remain open but must enforce social distancing.
- Services that are allowed to reopen to the public under specific health and safety conditions in Phase I include (Health and safety checklists for businesses, employees and customers are available at gov.texas.gov/opentexas):
 - Certain restaurants, theaters, retail services and malls with no more than 25% occupancy
 - Licensed health care professionals, such as doctors and dentists
 - Services provided by an individual working alone in an office
- Bars, gyms, public swimming pools, interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys and video arcades, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons are not reopening under Phase I.
- Religious services, regardless of religion, should be conducted in accordance with the [Revised Guidelines for Houses of Worship During the COVID-19 Crisis](#), as promulgated by the attorney general and governor issued April 21, 2020, as may be amended. **However, based on substantial community spread of the virus, it is strongly recommended that religious services continue to be provided remotely, including outdoor drive-up services where individuals remain in their vehicles.**
- Nursing homes, retirement and long-term care facilities are to prohibit nonessential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
- Any person, firm, corporation, agent or employee thereof who violates any of the provisions of this resolution commits an offense that is considered a class C misdemeanor and each day the violation continues shall be a separate offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.

Residents should continue following all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines and recommendations:

- Continue to stay home as much as possible.
- Wash hands often and for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Practice social distancing, putting 6 ft. distance between yourself and other people.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, doorknobs and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For specific questions about businesses, call 817-392-8478 or email COVID19@FortWorthTexas.gov.

For more information visit: FortWorthTexas.gov/COVID-19