

AS THE REGION BEGINS THE REOPENING PROCESS, HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



Texas businesses begin reopening

On April 27, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott detailed plans to reopen the state for business amid the coronavirus pandemic, starting this month. Abbott announced the reopening of commercial enterprises such as retail stores, restaurants and movie theaters in a limited capacity.

The move by the governor puts Texas – the country’s second-largest economy behind California – among the forerunner states to reopen economies that have been severely hampered by the outbreak of COVID-19.

“We’re not just going to pen up and hope for the best,” Abbott said during the late April news conference in Austin, during which he outlined the state’s commercial plan moving forward. “We’re going to open in a way that will also contain the virus and keep us safe. A more strategic approach is required so that we don’t open only to close down again.”

Along with retail stores, restaurants and movie theaters, Abbott said museums and libraries can also reopen at a 25-percent capacity. Sole proprietors of businesses can also open, and doctors and dentists can resume normal operations as well. Abbott added that hospitals will still have to keep 50 percent of their capacity for patients suffering from COVID-19.

Churches and places of worship are also allowed to remain open and expand their capacity provided they adhere to safe social distancing measures.

Barber shops, hair salons and bars will still remain closed. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said wearing masks will be encouraged, but will not be required.

The governor’s plan, which he said has the backing of both state and federal health officials, is part of a larger strategy in Texas to gradually reopen businesses. Abbott noted that by May 18, if there are no new spikes of contagion in Texas, he will move on to phase two of the plan, which will allow almost all businesses to operate at 50 percent capacity.

“We will open in a way that employs safe standards,” he said, noting that places such as China and Singapore have seen a second wave of infections after reopening too early. “There is a reason why all businesses in Texas can’t reopen all at once.

“We will be measured and cautious. Only with your help and with all of these measures in place can we begin to open businesses with careful adherence to health protocols. By coming together, we can prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we can get Texas back to work.”

Messages from Mayors Williams, Cook and Jensen:

I just want to say thank you for helping us stop the spread of the coronavirus. You have been so good at the stay-home, work safe and the social distancing.



of the Arlington citizens.

Every day, we see a new glimpse of the many displays of kindness that are taking place all across the American Dream City.

And we want to keep that up. If you spot a good deed or an act of kindness, post it on social media at #ArlingtonKINDNESS, or email it to us at news@arlingtontx.gov. By staying apart we stuck together. Continue to stay “Arlington Strong” and continue to spread these acts of kindness all across the community. Thank you so much for what you’re doing.

– Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams

For up-to-date information from Arlington officials regarding coronavirus, visit arlingtontx.gov/coronavirus

My Faith has never been stronger, and it has helped anchor me while leading our City through this COVID-19 Pandemic. Tonya and



support our Healthcare Heroes, First Responders, and all of those who are providing us with Essential Services – grocery stores, restaurants and other local businesses that are helping those in need.

We are in a unique time in history, and I have witnessed the very best in most people as they respond to the COVID-19 Crisis. Americans are truly coming together to lend a hand any way they can, and it is powerful and encouraging. I agree with President Trump, who has encouraged and tweeted #AmericaWorksTogether!

– Mansfield Mayor David L. Cook

For up-to-date information from Mansfield officials regarding coronavirus, visit mansfieldtexas.gov/coronavirus.

Your city leadership has been working closely with Dallas and Tarrant County during this crisis as we team up to slow the spread of this



novel coronavirus, Covid-19. We’ve set up a hotline for general Covid-19 and business recovery questions at 972-237-4599, and the website gptx.org/

COVID-19 is full of vital information and includes links to the county, state and CDC. Now, I know we’ve got disagreements on “Did we act too fast? Did we act too slow? Are we being too tough? Are we being too loose?”

I think we can all agree on this: We’re ready for this to be over. We’ve got to all be in this together.

Folks, I just want to tell you your elected officials take this very seriously. We’re weighing the will of the people with the safety of the people and trying to do what’s best.

– Grand Prairie Mayor Ron Jensen

For up-to-date information, visit gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/environmental-services/coronavirus-covid-19#ad-image-0



How the Chamber helps local businesses stay informed

The Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce is looking out for local businesses in a comprehensive manner by offering regular news updates and invaluable resources on a page on its website that is devoted to COVID-19’s impact locally. You can find the information at arlingtontx.com/covid-19.

While the page is pertinent to business owners and operators because of the up-to-the-minute commercial news and resources, it also is valuable to the public at large, as it shows how local businesses are adapting to the reopening process.

Educators offer help to parents

Arlington ISD, in an effort to assist parents of students working on assignments at home now that schools have been closed, has created a multilingual At-Home Learning Hub filled with recommended resources for all grade levels.

The district is also preparing additional resources that will be added to the site throughout the school closure. For more: aisd.net/students/at-home-learning.

Meanwhile, Primrose School of N.E. Green Oaks is open and continues to safely serve children from the community whose parents serve as essential workers.

"Our goal is to continue providing an exceptional educational child care experience to help children develop active minds, healthy bodies and happy hearts," says owner Lynne Groff, LMSW. "We also want to support all parents, whether they are currently a Primrose Parent or not, who are faced with temporarily providing care for your children at home."

To that end, Primrose School has announced access to a new at-home play and learning platform based on the school's Balanced Learning® curriculum. Hosted by Og, who enjoys reading and sharing story time with his Primrose friends, the platform is designed to help support you at home to continue a learning platform for your child.

"Many of the activities correspond to our weekly curriculum, while others provide helpful resources to encourage and inspire your child in their pursuit of knowledge and developing a lifetime love of learning," says Groff.

For more: learning.primroseschools.com.

A message from Downtown Arlington Management Corp.:

The word for us to consider moving forward is RESILIENCE. For the first time since the COVID-19 crisis began, experts are now cautiously sharing some good news. The influential coronavirus model by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which previously predicted a bleak outcome for Texas, improved dramatically last month. The number of projected deaths statewide fell dramatically, as did the likelihood of running out of ICU beds and ventilators.

Only through our resilience, however, will this more optimistic projection be realized. Stay flexible. Stay informed. Stay physically apart, yet stay strong together. To help our Downtown businesses and cultural partners stay the course, we're regularly updating our COVID-19 webpage and social media feeds with the latest resources available at the federal, state and local level. Visit downtownarlington.org/covid-19 for more information.

DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON LAUNCHES NEW PODCAST

Countless stories of ingenuity, creativity, and hometown pride make up the history of Downtown Arlington. What better time than now to both celebrate the resilience of Downtown and strengthen our community bonds through the sharing of those stories?

DAMC is proud to announce a new podcast series that celebrates the history of Downtown Arlington. More than just a history lesson, the podcast will engage Arlington leaders, experts and innovators in thought-provoking conversations about our district's fascinating history and bright future.

My job as podcast host is to go beyond the headlines and get into the kind of storytelling that's passed from one generation to the next. We encourage both our followers to join us as well as young Arlington residents who are currently learning at home. New, one-hour episodes of the podcast will air live each Thursday at 4 p.m. We started on April 23 with a visit with Parker Vandergriff about how the Texas Rangers came to Arlington, the stories behind all three ballparks of the Texas Rangers, and took a look behind the scenes of the new stadium.

Future episodes will take a deep dive into the history of early Arlington; the history of live music and art in Downtown; the history of Downtown Arlington's revitalization; the origins of innovation and reinvention in Downtown; and Downtown's longstanding tradition of community service.

DOWNTOWN DELIVERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

By now, you've probably experienced first-hand the value of #DowntownDelivers, the DAMC platform that connects customers to Downtown restaurants and bars offering to-go ordering, curbside pick-up, drive-through and/or delivery services. Our team was surprised and humbled last month by our professional association, the International Downtown Association, which highlighted Downtown Delivers to its members as an example of a COVID-19 response best practice. Visit downtownarlington.org/visit/downtown-delivers for more information.

KINDNESS CAN

What can lift us up as a community? Kindness can. Dan Cavanagh and the UT Arlington Department of Music have been inspiring us with their act of kindness. Last month, Dan, who chairs both the UTA Music Dept. and the DAMC Cultural Arts Committee, hosted a free, live virtual concert from his home. During the concert, those who were able had the opportunity to give to the UTA Emergency Assistance Fund. The Fund supports UTA students who are experiencing a financial crisis due to circumstances like COVID-19. DAMC jumped on the chance to offer a 1:1 match of all gifts received during the concert up to \$750. We're so proud to say that over \$3,100 was raised last month. If you see acts of kindness taking place in Downtown, please share the good news! Tag photos on social media with #ArlingtonKindness and @cityofarlington.

SOUL-FULL

As we cope with day-to-day realities of COVID-19, we must remember to take time to replenish our hearts, minds and souls. While the members of our faith-based community celebrated Passover and Easter in unconventional ways this Spring, each offered you an invitation to messages of hope and restoration. Please visit downtownarlington.org/visit/shop-and-play/worship for a list of places to worship in Downtown Arlington.

— Maggie Campbell, President and CEO



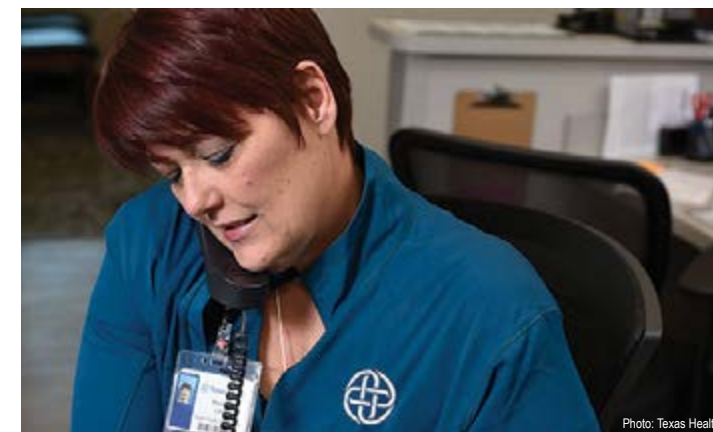
Arlington offers free drive-thru testing

The City of Arlington offers free, drive-thru COVID-19 testing for Tarrant County residents who meet testing eligibility criteria.

Tests will be by appointment only between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and are intended for residents ages 18 and up who are exhibiting symptoms of the respiratory disease. Prospective testees must pre-register with the City by phone (817-459-6029) or online at arlingtontx.gov/coronavirus for a specific time slot to receive the nasal swab test, which will be conducted by a local, private lab.

The testing location will be provided once the appointment time slot has been confirmed.

Residents with appointments must show a valid photo ID with proof of residency at the test site. Those who show up without a confirmed appointment will be turned away.



TEXAS HEALTH ARLINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL offers answers to questions you might have about coronavirus (COVID-19). You can call the Texas Health Coronavirus Hotline at 682-236-7601 to speak with a nurse 24x7. For more: texashealth.org/Health-and-Wellness/Coronavirus.

Methodist Mansfield Medical Center provides this important guide ...

Medical City Healthcare routes more than \$1 million to COVID-19 relief efforts

In response to COVID-19, Medical City Arlington Chief Executive Officer Keith Zimmerman reports that Medical City Healthcare's parent company, HCA Healthcare, has allocated more than \$1 million in charitable funds through the HCA Healthcare Foundation and a tax-exempt trust to aid COVID-19 relief efforts and address community needs across the country.

"I'm proud to share that, at the request of Medical City Healthcare, \$100,000 of these funds will directly benefit our local community through support of the North Texas Food Bank and Tarrant Area Food Bank," Zimmerman says. "With a rising number of North Texans struggling to make ends meet while trying to stay healthy, the food banks are experiencing a tremendous increase in demand for nutritious meals across the 26 counties they serve, often from those who've never needed help before. We know that good nutrition is essential to good health, and are so pleased that we could help facilitate these gifts."

To learn of ways to help, visit medicalcityhealthcare.com/covid-19/how-can-you-help.dot.

Hometown heroes ...

For more than a month, residents of the Arlington/Mansfield/Grand Prairie area have been sheltering at home, as the Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped our normal, often quite dramatically. Many of those folks not only found ways to persevere, but to thrive. Here are some of the stories ...

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A giveaway last month at Ben Thanh Plaza in East Arlington provided cloth face masks, hand sanitizer and food for more than 400 people. The act of kindness came together after **David Dang**, the owner of the shopping center at 1818 E. Pioneer



Parkway, saw a need to help his neighbors, particularly senior citizens who are vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the coronavirus everybody is affected by this, but the people

most affected are the elderly. They don't want to get out because they are the most high risk," says Dang, adding that finding masks to buy can be difficult and not everyone can make their own. "People feel left behind a little bit, so I came up with an idea. I talked to friends and I said, 'Let's do something to help the elderly.'"

Dang, a leader in Arlington's Asian American community, gathered about \$2,500 from community members and donated \$6,000 of his own money to fund the event. Volunteers also helped sew masks and distribute items to those who attended.

For more: btplaza.com.

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Two former Richard Greene Scholars have started separate initiatives responding to needs arising from the coronavirus.

Travis Patterson, a 2004 Martin High graduate who is now a local lawyer, co-founded a non-profit organization, Mental Health for Heroes, that offers free mental health services, including crisis counseling, for members of the medical community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mental Health for Heroes, by and through its partners at the Readiness Group, has established a network of trained therapists to provide crisis intervention responses seven days per week. All therapists are trained in trauma response, the intervention process, and the medical culture.

"Both as a law firm and generally as a community, we owe a great debt to our healthcare workers," says Patterson, Managing Partner of Patterson Law Group and the grandson of former Arlington Mayor Harold Patterson. "What they are doing right now in response to this pandemic is the most heroic thing I've ever seen. They are doing whatever it takes to save the lives of complete strangers, even though it means often putting themselves and their own loved ones at risk. The mental toll all of it must have on them is staggering, but they somehow continue to put one foot in front of the other. If they need

someone to work through this fight with (which is completely to be expected), it's our mission to support them. It's the least we can do for these heroes."

For more: MentalHealthForHeroes.org.

Meanwhile, **Ramzi Taim**, a 2016 Seguin High graduate now enrolled at the University of Texas at Dallas pursuing a health care degree, is a principal with another new altruistic non-profit, Cooked-19.

This organization is committed to providing the front-line doctors, nurses, first responders and hospital sanitation workers who are risking their lives and working long hours to combat COVID-19 with freshly-made, individually-packed meals made by local restaurants.

For more: cooked19.org.

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As the shelter-at-home process stretched throughout April, **Arlington Charities** was hard at work feeding families as the need for food assistance escalated. The nonprofit organization typically feeds about 70 families a day. That number has more than doubled since coronavirus began spreading through the country, forcing businesses to close.



Arlington Charities offered drive-through services with appointment windows opening each morning.

Workers and volunteers placed food in each car's trunk, to minimize interaction. The nonprofit also worked with Arlington ISD, giving families priority access to available time slots. To donate to Arlington Charities, visit interland3.donorperfect.net/webLink/WebLink.aspx?name=E254039&id=7.

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Mark and Becky Phillips made hundreds of masks for others to use during this time of social distancing. "I've been a machine quilter since 2014, but he just asked me a couple of weeks ago to teach him how to sew," Becky says. "I had an extra machine he could use, so he's been helping. We've donated over 300 masks to anyone and everyone that has needed one."

The couple accepts donations. "My machines are going to need to be serviced when this is all said and done," Becky says. "We've enjoyed doing this, and it's tickled me that he wanted to learn to sew. He's very good at it, too!"

You can email Becky at BeckyWalkerPhillips@gmail.com.

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In addition to working and "homeschooling" her four kiddos, **Shellie Eldredge** learned how to bake bread and porch-dropped more than 30 loaves of bread to customers, neighbors, teachers and friends in the area. "I took a small break from bread and made 108 masks for those in the community and donated the

money to Mary Nelle Cravens, who is raising money for the Boys and Girls Club Cinderella Ball," says Eldredge. "It's been amazing to see people coming together in our community even during a trying time! They inspire me to do better and be better every day."

You can email Eldredge at shellieldredge@gmail.com.

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Although **Arlington Urban Ministries'** NU2U resale shop (2220 W. Park Row Drive) has been closed during the pandemic, the organization's management team challenged friends and family to finish purging closets and drawers, and AUM volunteers began picking up donations to help NU2U host a huge sale once the all-clear is issued. For more: arlingtonurbanministries.org.

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To continue serving their loyal customers, the team at **Prince Lebanese Grill** (502 W. Randol Mill Road) offered the "Ultimate Quarantine Survival Kit," which included take-out food, a jug of tea, a roll of toilet paper and a copy of *Arlington Today* magazine.

"It was a major priority for us to think outside the box and stay open for our customers and staff," says Aziz Kobty, the eatery's general manager. "Everyone that works here is family to us and needs this job for their families. We are also right down the street from the hospital and a lot of medical offices. A lot of doctors, nurses and hospital staff are regular customers of ours. We want to be able to keep serving these people meals while they are on the front lines serving



our community. We also have a lot of police officers and first responders that eat here, so it was important for us to keep churning out food."

Kobty says the staff "really just wanted to help people out in this unpredictable time. The grill's building is an old Sonic drive-in, so our Prince Girls went from being waitresses to now being car hops. In the next few months we plan on staying open to serve fresh, hot meals to our community and adapting to the environment in whatever ways necessary."

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The "outside the box" thinking wasn't confined to restaurants. **Urban Alchemy Coffee + Wine Bar** (403 E. Main St.) helped patrons get beverages they wanted via its "Door to Pour!" service.

Door to Pour delivered your choice from Urban Alchemy's one-pound bags of coffees that are locally roasted, as well as bottles of unique varietals from Urban Alchemy's curated wine collection.

Words of thanks and inspiration from three business principals ...

As business owners, we stepped into leadership roles, whether we intended to or not. We lead family, community and customers. As such, we need to be the voice of empathy, concern and caution for those we lead, as well as a voice of optimism for the future. And leaders will shape what the new normal looks like for us all.

— Carrie Wilkerson, Author, Speaker, Business Consultant

So my approach to a crisis like COVID 19 is to take each day in stride and do everything possible to get things ship-shape at my businesses – The Sanford House and Women's Health Services. Down time meant that it was time to clean, organize, restructure, and plan. We have been at it for a month now, and are just about ready for ACTION!

You will see my key teams at The Sanford House who have been painting, cleaning, organizing, and upgrading The Sanford House rooms, spa, grounds, kitchen and restaurant. We know that this crisis will end soon, and we want to provide the cleanest, safest, and most beautiful place for our guests to come back and enjoy our lovely ambiance, delicious food, and sparkling accommodations. Our entire facility has been upgraded and enhanced BY OUR SUPER TEAM OF MANAGERS! ... We look forward to getting our wonderful guests to come back and ENJOY!!!!

The WHS team of Doctors has been in training for COVID patients in the hospital to ensure safe and clean environment for bringing new babies into the world. We love our patients and want the very best outcomes at the best hospital in our city, Arlington Memorial Hospital.

At the office we are fully prepared with the cleanest exam rooms and healthy staff to take care of patients for any of their obstetrical and gynecological needs. We are optimistic that the crisis will end, and we are ready!

Thanks to all of Arlington, Arlington Memorial Hospital, Tarrant County leaders, Mayor Jeff Williams, and Governor Abbott for keeping our city and state safe! From Women's Health Services: Dr. Joan Bergstrom, Dr. Dawnette Peppler, Dr. Sheri Puffer, Dr. Kiran Nanrani, Dr. Joy Carter, and Dr. Jessica Brown, and our special colleague, Dr. Ralph Wiegman, and from the Owner and Managers of The Sanford House and spa and restaurant 506 team: Executive Chef David, Bar Manager Anthony, Assistant Manager Darla, Banquet and Facilities Manager Van, Housekeeping Director Jessica, Spa Director Jason, General Manager, Valerie, and Owner Joan Bergstrom

Noted attorney Matthew A. Hodel said, "My thesis is that the truly successful lawyer finds a good heart more useful than sharp fangs."

I believe this quote applies to ALL successful people in life!

— Karen Schroeder, Mansfield-based attorney