



# **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

## **STATE & FEDERAL**

## **RESOURCE GUIDE**

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**This Guide Contains Lists of Important Websites,  
Phone Numbers, Relevant and Suspended Laws, and  
Tips Related to:**

- **General COVID-19 Information**
- **What to Do if You're Sick**
- **Testing, Symptoms, & Prevention**
- **Preventing the Spread of COVID-19**
- **Resources for Employers**
- **If You Lose Your Job**
- **Housing, Utilities, & Childcare**
- **Nutrition**
- **General Healthcare**
- **Transportation**
- **Education**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **News & Entertainment**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment & Religious Rights**



## State Government During Times of Crisis

Dear Texans—

The situation unfolding before us is truly historic in nature. We're proud to see Texans rise up above it during this time of great need, and we want to make sure you have access to every resource available to help you through this.

We have been monitoring the situation closely and put our resources together to compile this guide for you. We will update it as often as information comes in. We are praying for you and are doing everything we can in our power to get us through this. May God be with you during these difficult times.—

For God, Country, and Texas,

Handwritten signature of Rep. Mayes Middleton in black ink.

Rep. Mayes Middleton  
House District 23  
Chairman, Texas Freedom Caucus

Handwritten signature of Rep. Matt Schaefer in black ink.

Rep. Matt Schaefer  
House District 6  
Vice-Chairman

Handwritten signature of Rep. Matt Krause in black ink.

Rep. Matt Krause  
House District 93  
Secretary/Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Rep. Bill Zedler in black ink.

Rep. Bill Zedler  
House District 96

Handwritten signature of Rep. Kyle Biedermann in black ink.

Rep. Kyle Biedermann  
House District 73

Handwritten signature of Rep. Briscoe Cain in black ink.

Rep. Briscoe Cain  
House District 128

Handwritten signature of Rep. Mike Lang in black ink.

Rep. Mike Lang  
House District 60

Handwritten signature of Rep. Matt Shaheen in black ink.

Rep. Matt Shaheen  
House District 66

Handwritten signature of Rep. Valoree Swanson in black ink.

Rep. Valoree Swanson  
House District 150

Handwritten signature of Rep. Tony Tinderholt in black ink.

Rep. Tony Tinderholt  
House District 94



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## General Information

### The Following Orders Have Been Issued by Gov. Abbott:

- **Order No. 1:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- **Order No. 2:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- **Order No. 3:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- **Order No. 4:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

These orders will be effective statewide starting at 11:59 PM on March 20, 2020 and will end at 11:59 PM on April 30, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. **This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.**

[Click here](#) to see Governor Abbott's Coronavirus resource page for more information, and [click here](#) to see the Texas Department of State Health Service's COVID-19 Case Dashboard, updated daily.



## General Information (con't)

### **"Essential Services" Defined**

Governor Abbott's executive order allows the continuation of essential services during the COVID-19 disaster. These actions and services are permitted so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people are not in the same household. Essential services under this order include:

- All services listed on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)
- Religious services
- Grocery stores
- Gas stations
- Parks
- Hunting & fishing
- Jogging & bicycling

### **The Following are Not Considered Essential Services**

- Bars\*
- Restaurants\*
- Food courts\*
- Visiting gyms
- Massage establishments
- Tattoo or piercing studios
- Cosmetology salons

### **Citizens Should NOT Visit These Places under the Executive Order:**

- Nursing homes
- State supported living centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Long-term care facilities

Requests for additions to this list should be directed to the Texas Department of Emergency Management at [EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov) or by visiting [www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices).

*\* Please note that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged.*



## Out-of-State Travel Restrictions

### Air Travel to Texas

Governor Abbott's executive order on travel into Texas mandates that every person who enters the State of Texas as the final destination through an airport, from a point of origin or point of last departure from the following states or cities shall be subject to a mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Texas or the duration of the person's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter:

- State of California
- State of Connecticut
- State of Louisiana
- State of New York
- State of New Jersey
- State of Washington
- City of Atlanta, Georgia
- City of Chicago, Illinois
- City of Detroit, Michigan
- City of Miami, Florida

This order does not apply to the following people traveling in connection with:

- Military service
- Emergency response
- Health response
- Critical infrastructure functions

A covered person should use a form prescribed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to designate a quarantine location in Texas, such as a residence or hotel, and shall proceed directly from the airport to the designated quarantine location entered on the form. Any covered person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall be escorted to the designated quarantine location by a DPS trooper. A covered person shall not allow visitors into or out of the designated quarantine location, other than a health department employee, physician, or healthcare provider, and shall not visit any public places.

### Road Travel to Texas

Every person who enters the State of Texas through roadways from Louisiana shall be subject to mandatory self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into Texas or the duration of the person's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter. This order is subject to the same requirements and exceptions as those who travel into Texas by air.



## What to Do if You're Sick

### How Do I Know if I am Considered High-Risk?

High-risk individuals fit the following criteria:

- People 65 years of age or older; or
- People with medical issues such as:
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - High blood pressure
  - Cancer
  - Weakened immune system

If you are considered high-risk and you develop fever or symptoms, call your doctor. If you are not sick enough to be hospitalized, you can recover at home. Follow your doctor's instructions and refer to CDC recommendations for how to take care of yourself at home by clicking [here](#).

### Tips for the General Population

If you are in good health and have mild symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself like you would for a cold or the flu. If symptoms worsen, call your doctor.

### Caring for Yourself or Someone Who is Sick

If you are sick or are caring for someone who is sick, you can use the **Coronavirus Self-Checker** on the CDC's Symptoms & Testing page to help you make decisions about seeking appropriate medical care by clicking [here](#).

**If you need help finding a doctor or accessing medical care, call 2-1-1 and they can direct you to a low- or no-cost provider in your area. If you are in need of immediate medical assistance, dial 9-1-1.**

### Helpful U.S. Center for Disease Control Websites

- Click [here](#) to view what to do if you are sick.
- Click [here](#) to view a guide to caring for yourself at home.
- Click [here](#) to view a guide to caring for someone at home.
- Click [here](#) to view a guide to disinfecting your home.



## Testing Information, Symptoms, and Prevention

### COVID-19 Testing

Your doctor will help make the decision if you should get tested for COVID-19. If you do not have health insurance, you can still get tested for COVID-19 if your doctor or healthcare provider recommends it.

For more information about testing, call your doctor and/or access care the way you usually do. If you need help finding a doctor or accessing medical care, call 2-1-1 and they will direct you to low- or no-cost providers in your area.

You can also [click here](#) for information on COVID-19 drive-thru testing locations in certain parts of Texas.

### Symptoms of COVID-19

Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

[Click here](#) to learn more about COVID-19 symptoms of the CDC website.

### Tips for Prevention of COVID-19

- Wash hands often to 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- No soap and water? Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

The Department of State Health Services also recommends that you practice social distancing. Social distancing involves staying away from other people to avoid catching or spreading illness. This can be achieved by **staying at least six feet away from others outside of your household**.

Click [here](#) to see the CDC website for more information to prevent the spread of COVID-19.





## How is COVID-19 Spread?

Current understanding about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (about 6 ft.)
- Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possible be inhaled into the lungs.

People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

[Click here](#) for the latest information from the CDC on how COVID-19 is spread.

[Click here](#) for more in-depth information on COVID-19 on the CDC's Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 page.



## Resources for Employers

### Small Businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration has made loans available statewide to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by COVID-19.

Small businesses who believe they may be eligible for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan should click [here](#) to visit the SBA's website where they can directly apply for assistance. The online application is the fastest method to receive a decision about loan eligibility.

### Sales Taxes

Small businesses struggling to pay taxes due to the Texas Comptroller's office should contact the Comptroller's Enforcement Hotline at (800) 252-8880 to learn about your options for remaining in compliance and, in most cases, waivers of penalties and interest.

In addition, the Comptroller has set up a website with various online tools you can use to seek assistance that you can access by clicking [here](#).

### Tips for Employers

The Texas Workforce Commission has set up a website that you can access by clicking [here](#) that outlines various resources for employers, including advice for employers facing layoffs and other tips, such as how to interact with employees during the crisis.

### What If I Must Close My Business Temporarily or Permanently?

If you must close your business temporarily or permanently and need to lay off employees, you may be able to submit a mass claim for unemployment benefits on their behalf. The Mass Claims program streamlines the unemployment benefit claims process for employers faces with either temporary or permanent layoffs. Employers can submit basic worker information on behalf of their employees to initiate claims for unemployment benefits.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to file a Mass Claim for Unemployment Benefits, or contact the Texas Workforce Commission's Mass Claims Coordinator at (512) 463-2999.



## Resources for Employers (con't)

### What if My Business Has Slowed Down?

If your business has slowed down due to the pandemic and you need to reduce employee working hours, you may be able to avoid laying off employees by submitting a shared work plan. Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply for a shared work plan. You may also call the Texas Workforce Commission's Shared Work Department at (512) 340-4337 or (888) 741-0446.

### What if I Have Questions about an Unemployment Claim that was Filed?

Employers should contact the Texas Workforce Commission online by using the Unemployment Claim Management & Appeals webpage by clicking [here](#) or by calling the Texas Workforce Commission's tele-center at (800) 939-6631.

### Screening for COVID-19

Employers maintain wide latitude in their screening procedures for current and prospective employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers may do the following:

- **For existing employees, employers may:**
  - Request from an employee who calls in sick whether they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Employers must still maintain records as confidential.
  - Take body temperatures of employees before allowing entrance into the workplace.
  - Require employees to leave the workplace if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Require employees, upon return to work after recovering from illness, to provide doctors' notes certifying their fitness for duty.
- **For prospective employees, employers may:**
  - Screen applicants for symptoms of COVID-19.



## Resources for Employers (con't)

- Screen applicants for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Take an applicant's temperature as part of a post-offer, pre-employment medical exam.
- Delay the start date of an applicant who has COVID-19 or symptoms associated with it.
- May withdraw a job offer when it needs the applicant to start immediately but the individual has COVID-19 or symptoms of it.

## Permit Refunds for Businesses

Governor Abbott temporarily suspended certain provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code to help businesses whose events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Suspending these provisions will allow for refunds of application fees paid to obtain a temporary permit for an event that was later cancelled. Contact your event partner in order to discuss options for refunding application fees.

## National Federation of Independent Businesses

The National Federation of Independent Businesses has compiled a list of resources to help guide small businesses through the economic turmoil brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial and legal resources as well as tips on best employment practices during this pandemic. Click [here](#) to view the page.

## CARES Act

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards. For an overview of the program, click [here](#).

More information for lenders can be found [here](#), and more information for borrowers can be found [here](#), as well as the application for borrowers [here](#).



## If You Lose Your Job

### Unemployment Assistance

The Texas Unemployment Insurance program, which you can access by clicking [here](#), pays benefits to those individuals who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Governor Abbott has waived numerous regulations standing in the way of immediate assistance; those waivers can be viewed [here](#).

The Texas Workforce Commission determines eligibility on past wages, why someone lost their job, and eligibility requirements. If you are unsure of whether you qualify for benefits, you may call the Texas Workforce Commission's Commissioner Representing Labor at (800) 832-2829.

Click [here](#) to submit an application for unemployment benefits, and [here](#) for a tutorial on how to do so. You will need the following before you apply:

- Your last employer's business name and address
- The first and last dates (month, day, and year) you worked for your last employer
- The number of hours you worked and pay rate if you worked this week
- Information related to your normal wage
- Alien Registration Number (if not a U.S. citizen or national)

If you cannot access the internet, you may also call the Texas Workforce Commission's Tele-Center at (800) 939-6631.

### CARES Act

In the weeks immediately after the passage of the CARES Act, Americans will see fast and direct relief in the form of Economic Impact Payments. For more information, visit the IRS's dedicated website by clicking [here](#).



## Housing, Utilities & Childcare

### Mortgage Payments

Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks are taking steps to help people who have been affected by the coronavirus. If your loan is owned by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, you may be eligible to delay making your monthly payments for a temporary period. For more information click [here](#). If you are unsure if your lender is allowing for deferred payments, call them directly to work out a payment plan based on your circumstances.

### If You Cannot Make Rent and Are Issued an Eviction Notice

The Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency order suspending residential eviction proceedings through April 19, 2020 unless there is a threat of physical harm or criminal activity. Work with your landlord directly to develop a deferred payment plan if you are unable to pay to due COVID-19 related hardships.

### Utilities

Through September 2020, companies are temporarily restricted from shutting off access to utilities such as gas, water, and electricity to Texans affected by the coronavirus. Payments, however, are only deferred; they are not waived. Utilities will work with customers to create payment plans on unpaid utility bills.

### Childcare

Many childcare providers in Texas are currently closed. If you participate in the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program, your children may accrue absences without impacting ongoing eligibility for services or provider reimbursements as of March 1, 2020. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Financial Assistance for Child Care

Eligible families of children under the age of 13 may receive child care financial assistance so that parents can work, attend school, or participate in training. For more information on how to apply, visit the Texas Workforce Commission's child care program webpage by clicking [here](#).

### Important Phone Numbers

Texans can dial 2-1-1 (choose option 6) for information on COVID-19 and local community resources on health care, utilities, food, housing, and more.



## Food & Nutrition

### Texas School Meal Finder

If your children have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you can click [here](#) to access the Texas School Meal Finder, an app that allows you to input your address to locate the nearest public school site that is providing meal assistance for children in your area. Simply input your address or ZIP code and the nearest locations will populate the page.

### Applying for SNAP and Other Supplemental Food Programs

Texas fortunately has a user-friendly website that allows Texans to easily apply for various benefits. Click [here](#) to view information on the qualifications and application process for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and click [here](#) for the information on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides assistance for nutrition and other essential needs.

### Applicable Executive Orders

- Governor Abbott issued an executive order authorizing restaurants to sell bulk retail product from their establishments. This means that individuals may purchase from restaurants bulk food items to prepare themselves at home, providing yet another resource for food distribution during the crisis. Contact your restaurant of choice to determine whether they are exercising this option.
- The Governor has also asked the Federal Government to allow families that rely on SNAP benefits for food to use those benefits at drive-thru restaurants. Information on the Federal Government's response will be added here once the decision is made.

### If You are Pregnant and in Need of Resources

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition assistance to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under 5 years old. For an overview of the program, click [here](#). To view eligibility requirements, click [here](#), and to begin an application with the state, click [here](#).

### Other Resources

Click [here](#) to search for local Meals on Wheels providers in your area, and click [here](#) to use Feeding Texas, a website designed to locate discounted groceries.



## General Healthcare

### Interacting with Your Doctor and Pharmacist

In order to reduce physical contact with someone who may be carrying the virus, telephonic consultations with your doctor and pharmacist are temporarily allowed for patients with state-regulated plans, and they may be paid the same as in-office visits for insurance purposes.

Additionally, Governor Abbott has waived certain regulations to ensure that Texans will have continued access to their pharmacists by allowing pharmacists to conduct telephonic consultations.

### Children's Health Insurance Program & Other Health Resources

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Children's Medicaid provide resources for qualifying families for child healthcare needs related to dentist visits, eye exams, primary care physicians, prescription drugs, hospital care services, and other necessary healthcare needs for children. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program and how to [apply](#).

### Health Resources for Young Adults, Families, and People Age 65+

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission's "Your Texas Benefits" page has numerous resources for people coming from various walks of life. Click [here](#) for a list of resources for young adults, families, and people age 65+, as well as how to apply for these benefits.

### Healthcare for Someone Who is Incarcerated

Governor Abbott directed the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to temporarily suspend inmate fees for healthcare services related to COVID-19. While incarcerated Texans housed within TDCJ facilities are never denied access to healthcare due to an inability to pay, this temporary waiver will encourage timely reporting of COVID-19 symptoms so that inmates are given the treatment they need.

### Important Phone Numbers

Texans can dial 2-1-1 (choose option 6) for information on COVID-19 and local community resources on health care, utilities, food, housing, and more.

Texans can dial 7-1-1 to access a telephone relay service from any location in the U.S.





## Transportation

### What to Do if Your Driver License Expires

Governor Abbott directed that all Driver License offices in Texas be temporarily closed. As such, he also directed the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to temporarily waive expiration dates for Driver Licenses, Commercial Driver licenses, and other identification forms. The suspension will be in effect until 60 days after the DPS provides further public notice that normal Driver License operations have resumed.

Though expiration dates have been temporarily suspended, individuals seeking to renew their driver license or personal identification certificate during this period should check the DPS website to see if they are eligible to renew online by clicking [here](#).

### Waiving of Certain Titling, Registration, & Parking Placard Requirements

Governor Abbott additionally waived certain registration, titling, and parking placard requirements for persons with disabilities to allow Texans to avoid penalties for failure to timely title or register a vehicle or renew a placard. For more information, click [here](#).

### Commercial Driver Licenses

Commercial Driver license renewals are temporarily waived. The temporary closure of DPS offices 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. Visits are by appointment only, and can be scheduled by e-mailing [cdlappointments@dps.texas.gov](mailto:cdlappointments@dps.texas.gov). This exception will allow commercial drivers to continue to ship good across the state.

### Allowing Trucks from Alcohol Industry to Deliver Grocery Supplies

Governor Abbott additionally waived state laws that prohibit trucks from the alcohol industry from delivering supplies to grocery stores.

### Weight Requirements, International Registration Plan, and 72-Hour and 144-Hour Temporary Registration Permits

Oversize and overweight permitting requirements, IRP vehicle registration, and 72-hour and 144-hour temporary registration permits are suspended. Click [here](#) for a full description of these temporary rules applicable to truckers in Texas.



## Education

Subject to Governor Abbott's executive order, all Texas schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance and shall not recommence before May 4, 2020.

### Public & Private School Children

- **STAAR Testing Requirements Waived:** As schools are currently closed, Governor Abbott waived STAAR testing requirements for the 2019–2020 school year.
- **Special Education & Special Populations:** Many families that rely on public school services to educate and care for their special needs children during the day are wondering how they can receive assistance during this time. If you are in need, click [here](#) for resources on special education and special populations.
- **Instructional Continuity Planning Framework:** The purpose of Instructional Continuity planning is to help districts launch “at-home schools” that maximize the amount of instructional time for students this school year and support student mastery of grade level standards. For resources on IC planning, click [here](#).

### Higher Education

Work directly with your institution of higher education to work out a plan for your studies. For student loan payment assistance, click [here](#) to view the Federal Government's website on student aid. Federal student loan borrowers can be placed in an administrative forbearance, which allows you to temporarily stop making your monthly loan payment.

- **Work-Study Programs:** Governor Abbott waived regulations to ensure students who are enrolled in work-study programs will continue to receive critical funding while campuses close due to their response to COVID-19.

### Other Resources

- **Texas Homeschool Coalition:** This organization recently launched a new website with resources for families having to home school due to COVID-19. You can see the website [here](#).
- **Texas Workforce Commission:** The TWC provides a list of many different services [here](#), but specifically, the list includes a litany of fun, educational resources for children.



## Volunteer Opportunities

One of the best things we can do as Texans is take care of those immediately around us—namely, family, friends, and neighbors. If you would like to go the extra mile and volunteer outside of your immediate surroundings, there are opportunities for that listed below, but know that it is noble to take care of your neighborhood as well.

### Donating Blood

The American Red Cross has issued an urgent call for blood donors, citing a critical need for blood and platelets. Click [here](#) to make an appointment.

### Regional Volunteer Opportunities

The links below provide lists of volunteer opportunities in the listed area. We will add to this list as volunteer opportunities grow.

- [Austin](#)
- [Houston](#)
- [North Texas](#)
- [San Antonio](#)



## Healthcare Industry Licensure Suspensions

### Nurses

Governor Abbott directed the Texas Board of Nursing to fast-track the temporary licensing of out-of-state nurses and other license types to assist in Texas' response to COVID-19. Any out-of-state nurse may practice in Texas for the purpose of rendering aid, provided the nurse holds a current license in good standing in their home state.

Governor Abbott has also allowed temporary permit extensions to practice for graduate nurses and graduate vocational nurses who have yet to take the licensing exam. He is also allowing students in their final year of nursing school to meet their clinical objectives by exceeding the 50% limit on simulated experiences. Finally, the Governor is allowing nurses with inactive licenses or retired nurses to reactivate their licenses.

### Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

Governor Abbott additionally has waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Texas. Under these waivers, an APRN with a license that has

been inactive for more than two years, but less than four years, will not have to pay a reactivation fee, complete continuing education credits, or complete the current practice requirements. For APRNs with a license that has been inactive for more than four years, the reactivation fee and continuing education requirements will be waived.

APRNs are still required to have a delegating physician that meets the requirements of Texas Medical Board Rule 172.21. Telenursing opportunities are also available for nurses that do not live in Texas. Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply.

### Pharmacists & Technicians

The Governor waived licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees. With these waivers, Governor Abbott is temporarily extending expiration dates for licenses and temporarily suspending continuing education requirements for pharmacists.



## **Second Amendment & Religious Rights**

Many Texans are concerned that their Second Amendment and religious rights under the First Amendment are in jeopardy. For some states that may be the case, but in Texas, these rights simply cannot be violated for any reason.

### **Second Amendment Rights**

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton recently released an opinion deeming gun stores as “essential businesses” during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, so long as these establishments impose the social distancing rules recommended by the CDC and the Texas Department of State Health Services, gun store owners may continue to operate unimpeded.

### **Religious Rights**

Religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship are considered “essential services” and may continue to operate unimpeded during the COVID-19 crisis so long as they operate in accordance with the social distancing recommendations offered by the CDC and the Texas Department of State Health Services. It is recommended that these services be conducted remotely, however, if these services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the guidelines mentioned above.



## News & Entertainment

### State & National Parks

Click [here](#) for a list of operational state parks operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife division, and click [here](#) for a list of operational state parks operated by the U.S. National Park Service. Please note that for the National Park Service webpage, you must click on individual park links to view the status.

### Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages

Generally, restaurants that have a Mixed Beverage Permit may not sell alcohol to consumers that can be taken off retailer's premises and may not deliver alcohol to consumers without also having a Food and Beverage Certificate. However, in accordance with Governor Abbott's disaster declaration, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has temporarily suspended these limitations to allow for restaurants that hold Mixed Beverage Permits to conduct "to-go" alcohol sales and alcohol deliveries.

This exemption does not apply to all establishments. For specific guidance, call your local restaurant of choice to inquire about alcoholic beverage deliveries.

### State & Federal Government News Updates on Coronavirus Pandemic

The links below are updated daily and provide up-to-date news on the coronavirus in Texas:

- [White House Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Task Force](#)
- [Center for Disease Control Webpage on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [State of Texas Dedicated Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Webpage](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services Webpage on COVID-19](#)
- [Texas House of Representatives Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Page](#)
- [Texas Department of Emergency Management Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

# Who We Are

**WE RECOGNIZE** that the United States was founded upon the truth that our unalienable rights are given to us by God, that government is instituted by God to protect those rights while deriving its authority from the people, and that the U.S.

and Texas Constitutions are the guiding limits on government action.

Recognizing this truth, the *Texas Freedom Caucus* is founded in the Texas House of Representatives with a mission to amplify the voice of liberty-minded, grassroots Texans who want bold action to protect life, strengthen families, defend the U.S. and Texas Bills of Rights, restrain government, and revitalize personal and economic freedoms in the State of Texas.

## Our Members



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