



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Lockhart provides updates on COVID-19 risk prevention

As developments surrounding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Texas continue to evolve, the City of Lockhart wants to keep residents informed by providing the following updates:

- To mitigate risks associated with large crowds, the City has canceled the Dr. Eugene Clark Library's spring break events and has indefinitely postponed KIDFISH and Welcome Spring Day (March 21). The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event scheduled for Saturday, March 14 will proceed as planned. Residents are asked to remain in their vehicles and wait for a worker to assist them.
- The City has developed a web page devoted to COVID-19. It includes recommendations from the CDC and DSHS and links to official informational resources. The city plans to update this page regularly. It can be accessed at http://lockhart-tx.org/page/Coronavirus_info.
- City staff is actively communicating with long-term care nursing facilities in the area, providing them with guidance, keeping them informed on the latest CDC guidelines and getting feedback on what actions they are taking to mitigate risk to their residents.
- The City of Lockhart has the following services available for paying utility bills that limit face-to-face contact: online pay options (http://lockhart-tx.org/page/utility_home), two centrally located drop boxes located in the front and back of City Hall (308 W. San Antonio) that are checked twice a day, and a drive-through location at the Municipal Court Building (1914 W. San Antonio St.). The online payment option DOES NOT require customers to set up an account, and there is an option for a one-time payment. If you have questions about how to pay online, our customer service department is here to help you. Give us a call at (512)398-3461.
- Traffic tickets and other payments accepted by the City of Lockhart Municipal Court can be handled through the court's website at http://lockhart-tx.org/page/court_home.

- At the direction of Governor Greg Abbott, visitations at nursing homes, state-supported living centers, hospitals, daycare facilities and detention centers will be restricted. The directive allows limited exceptions for situations such as end-of-life visitations and requires all individuals to go through proper screening.
- The governor has reassured the public that stockpiling supplies is not necessary. The state has been working closely with grocers and retailers to ensure shelves are replenished and that Texans have access to the goods and supplies they need. Texans who suspect a case of price-gouging in connection to the potential coronavirus threat should file a consumer complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the OAG. Texans can also call the hotline at 1-800-621-0508.
- The Lockhart Independent School District sent a letter detailing its plans to slow the spread of COVID-19 in its schools through March 27. At this time, LISD does not have plans to cancel school after spring break (March 16-20), but noted that it is monitoring the situation and will revisit that decision next week.

Relief for small businesses

The Small Business Association (SBA) has designated COVID-19 as a qualifying event for the provision of Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) for businesses and private non-profits in affected communities that have sustained substantial economic injury. This is triggered when a business is unable to meet its obligations and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses. EIDLs provide the necessary working capital to help small businesses survive until normal operations resume after a disaster.

In order for Texas to qualify for a SBA Economic Injury Disaster Declaration, Texas will need to submit five Economic Injury Worksheets certifying a small businesses in a disaster area has suffered substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19 and are in need of financial assistance. Once five submitted worksheets are validated by SBA, the governor may request the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Declaration. A county will be included in this declaration if it has at least one qualifying Economic Injury Worksheet or the county is contiguous to another qualified declared county. Additional counties may be added by the Texas Department of Emergency Management after a declaration is received.