

SENATE DISTRICT 29

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

UPDATED 7/3/2020

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"We are facing an urgent situation with COVID-19, but I am confident that our strong, resilient community will meet the challenge together."

Dear Friend:

We are facing an urgent situation with COVID-19, but I am confident that our strong, resilient community will meet the challenge together.

Many cities and counties in SD 29 and across the state have issued orders restricting all but essential personal errands and business to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This is an effort to "flatten the curve," or to slow the rate of infection, so that our health care system is not overwhelmed.

Elected officials, health authorities, and members of our community are working at all levels to ensure that we protect public health and respond to the financial needs of workers and businesses. It will be difficult, but we will be able to rebuild our local, state, and national economy.

Enclosed you will find information and links to local and state resources. This includes information on COVID-19 and your health, financial support for small businesses and workers, City and County orders prohibiting non-essential social and business interaction, housing and food support, volunteer opportunities, and even educational and fun things to do with your children.

As always, please contact my office directly at (915) 351-3500 or (512) 436-0129 if you need assistance.

Sincerely,
Senator José Rodríguez

COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITY

The [novel corona virus](#) has spread across the world rapidly. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best, scientifically-proven steps you can take to prevent contracting the virus are to wear a face covering when outside your home, wash your hands thoroughly, and practice [social distancing](#) to the greatest extent possible. The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation and information is updated on the CDC's [COVID-19 Situation Summary](#) as it becomes available. [Stay informed](#) and understand what's needed from YOU.

If you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home and call your primary care physician (PCP). If you don't have a PCP, call the City of El Paso Department of Public Health at **(915) 212-6843** or **(915) 21-COVID** or visit <http://www.epstrong.org>. [Para información y recursos en español.](#)

For a comprehensive guide to resources for community-based services, businesses, and testing, visit Paso del Norte Health Foundation's [El Paso COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

State of Texas

For info from state agencies or resources related to COVID-19, visit <https://texas.gov/#covid19>.

For daily situational reports from the Texas Dept. of Emergency Management, visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL STATE EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND WAIVERS](#)

EFFECTIVE: JULY 3, 2020

Gov. Abbott [issued an Executive Order \(GA-29\)](#) requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions.

The Governor also [issued a proclamation](#) giving mayors and county judges the ability to **impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over 10 people**, and making it mandatory that, with certain exceptions, people cannot be in groups larger than 10 and must maintain six feet of social distancing from others.

For a list requirements for Texas counties visit: <https://tdem.texas.gov/ga29/>.

Open Texas checklists are being updated consistent with this order and will be posted after noon on Friday, July 3, 2020, here >>> <https://open.texas.gov/>

Due to rapidly increasing infections and hospitalizations, the Governor has paused the re-opening of Texas.

Under Phase III, all businesses in Texas are able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions. Businesses that previously have been able to operate at 100% capacity may continue to do so, and most outdoor areas are not subject to capacity limits. **All businesses should continue to follow the [minimum standard health protocols](#) from the Texas Dept. of State Health Services. For details and a full list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates, visit <http://open.texas.gov>.**

On June 26, Gov. Abbott issued an [Executive Order \(GA-28\)](#), closing bars and rafting/tubing businesses as well as limiting restaurant dine-in occupancy:

- All bars and similar establishments that receive more than 51% of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages are required to close.
- These businesses may remain open for delivery and take-out, including for alcoholic beverages, as authorized by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
- Restaurants may remain open for dine-in service, but at a capacity not to exceed 50% of total listed indoor occupancy, beginning Monday, June 29, 2020.
- Rafting and tubing businesses must close.
- Outdoor gatherings of 100 or more people must be approved by local governments, with certain exceptions.

City of El Paso

For the latest updates on COVID-19, visit www.epstrong.org or [the City of El Paso Dept. of Public Health](#)



Community spread means spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. Avoid public places to prevent community spread and wash your hands frequently.

To report or inquire about COVID-19 compliance, call 311 or email COVIDCompliance@elpasotexas.gov

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES (cont.)

El Paso Public Health Directives

Everyone is strongly urged to stay at home, and continue to exercise social distancing, proper hygiene, and the use of face coverings. [The City of El Paso has ordered all businesses to require customers to wear face masks.](#)

For a complete list of current health orders and emergency directives visit <http://epstrong.org/health-orders.php>

[County of El Paso Order \(español\)](#)

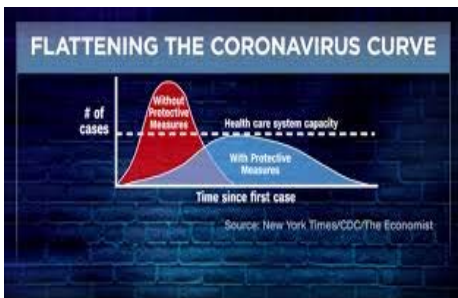
Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

[Información del Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Understand the challenges our binational community faces with COVID-19.](#)

[Information for U.S. Citizens in Mexico](#)

[Información sobre COVID-19 para ciudadanos estadounidenses en México](#)



Flattening the curve ensures that our hospitals and healthcare system will be able to manage the spread of COVID-19.

Trans Pecos

Get updates and resources from the [Big Bend Sentinel](#).

Voting in Texas

In consultation with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Secretary of State's Office today released guidance on recommended health protocols for Texas election officials and voters in response to COVID-19. You can click here to [view the guidance](#).

To report or inquire about COVID-19 compliance, call 3-1-1 or email COVIDcompliance@elpasotexas.gov

El Paso County

The General Assistance Division provides resources to El Pasoans through community and social service programs. Call (915) 775-2700 to apply over the phone or [click here](#) to apply online for help with emergency rent/mortgage payments, utility assistance, food baskets/meals, and burial services.

El Paso County Courthouse

Facilities are limited to essential services only. Call (915) 546-2000 or visit www.epcounty.com with any issues or concerns relating to business with the County.

El Paso Consolidated Tax Office

The El Paso Consolidated Tax Office is closed to the public for in-person services until further notice. Taxpayers can still conduct business with the office by mail, phone or online.

Taxpayers are encouraged to pay their property taxes through the following methods:

Mail: City Tax Assessor Collector, PO Box 2992, El Paso, TX 79999-2992

Phone: (915) 212-0106

Online: www.elpasotexas.gov/tax-office

For additional information, visit elpasotexas.gov/tax-office.

El Paso Sun Metro

[Read EPSM news here](#). Highlights: free public transportation until further notice;

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES (cont.)

implemented safety protocol; [Streetcar service has been suspended.](#)

HEALTHCARE RESOURCES

The Texas Department of State Health Services has extensive information about the virus and what you can do to prevent its spread. [Click here for info.](#)

If you are a health care provider, for the latest state waivers and resources, visit [Texas HHS COVID-19 Information for Providers.](#)

COVID-19 Testing

To make an appointment for testing in Texas at a site near you [click here.](#)
Para registrarse para las pruebas COVID en el estado de Texas en un sitio cerca de usted, [haga clic aquí.](#)

The Texas Military Department has set up mobile testing sites in El Paso County until July 12th. Make an appointment at [www.txcovidtest.org](#) or by calling 512-883-2400.

The City of El Paso drive-thru site will now provide testing for anyone with or without symptoms. The testing is free and a doctor's order or insurance is **NOT** required, but staff may still ask for orders and insurance as a part of the process. To make an appointment, call (915) 212-0783 Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, visit [EPStrong.org](#)

CVS Health will open 44 new COVID-19 test sites at select CVS Pharmacy drive-thru locations across Texas. These new sites will utilize self-swab tests and will be available to individuals who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria, in addition to age guidelines. Patients must [register in advance at CVS.com](#) beginning Friday, May 22 to schedule an appointment.

If you require medical attention and do not have a primary health care provider or health insurance [Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso](#), [Centro San Vicente](#), and [Project Vida](#) provide integrated primary and preventive care, including behavioral health, and are currently providing COVID-19 screening and testing.

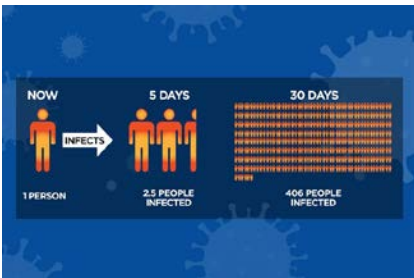
NON-COVID-19 Healthcare Resources

Community Health Centers:

For non-COVID-19 health services, contact your primary care physician by phone. If you do not have one, you may contact [Project Vida](#) or [University Medical Center](#) by phone to make an appointment.

Behavioral Health Services:

[Texas Health and Human Services Commission](#) has launched a 24/7 statewide mental health support line to help Texans experiencing anxiety, stress or emotional challenges due to COVID-19. The service is available to everyone in Texas. Call toll-free at (833) 986-1919.



Community spread means spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. Avoid public places to prevent community spread.

HEALTHCARE RESOURCES (cont.)

[Emergence Health Network](#) provides services for mental health, developmental disability, and related conditions for the people of El Paso County. Call (915) 242.0555 for information or to make an appointment.

The [El Paso Child Guidance Center](#) continues to accept children (ages 2 and older) and families for mental health services and has openings available. EPCGC accepts Medicaid, some private insurances, and offers sliding scale. Call (915) 562-1999 to schedule an appointment or for more info.

[Aliviane](#) offers prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery programs in the areas of substance abuse, behavioral health, HIV services, and homelessness. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (915) 782-4000.

[Project Vida](#) provides telehealth services for behavioral health with a sliding scale and online registration. LPCs and LCSWs are available as is support from their staff Child and Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrists. SUD Peer Recovery Services are available to insured and uninsured alike. Medications are available for home delivery. Call (915) 533-7057 to schedule.

Victims of Domestic Violence:

[Center Against Sexual and Family Violence / Centro en Contra de la Violencia Sexual y Familiar](#) will not turn away clients who are seeking shelter during this time of social isolation. Call (915) 593-7300 if you are facing sexual or family violence require support or assistance.

Reproductive Health Services:

[Planned Parenthood](#) currently offers urgent health services. Schedule pain/infection exams, suspected breast mass exam, emergency contraception, Depo Provera birth control and PrEP/PEP HIV prevention. Birth control is available via PPDirect telemedicine for patients 18 and older for pills/patch/ring. STI screening and treatments, and transgender patient appointments are also available.

You may also contact [Project Vida](#) for reproductive health services, excluding abortion and referrals for abortion. Project Vida is a Title X grantee and provides fully confidential family planning services to youth and adults, with on-demand visits. Confidential services are available for teens 15 years of age and older under Title X, at no cost depending on a person's income. Testing, family planning, pre-natal and gyn services available. Insurances accepted but not required. Call (915) 533-7057 to schedule an appointment.

Diabetes Management Assistance:

The American Diabetes Association is providing support and guidance to constituents impacted by diabetes, who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. You can access helpful resources, understand your risk, know your legal rights, and connect with community at diabetes.org/coronavirus. In addition, many people are now facing unexpected financial hardships.

If you are struggling to pay for insulin, the ADA has resources to help - visit InsulinHelp.org. [Click here](#) or call their center for Information at 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383).

Accessing and Applying for Insurance:

If you have experienced significant changes in income or employment status, there are insurance programs you may qualify for. [Visit this complete list](#) of programs to get coverage for you and/or your children.



Practice social distancing by keeping at least SIX FEET between you and the people around you.

HOUSING

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs will provide [HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance \(TBRA\)](#) to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19. For a complete list of state housing resources visit <https://taahp.org/covid-19-resources/>

Evictions

If you are facing eviction during COVID-19, get information [here](#).

For information to help understand your rights as a tenant or property owner visit the [Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. COVID-19 page](#).

Para obtener información que lo ayude a comprender sus derechos como inquilino o propietario, visite [Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. COVID-19 page](#).

You may also contact [Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc.](#) through their legal intake system at 1-888-988-9996.

[El Paso County](#) provides assistance for renters who qualify. The General Assistance Division provides resources through community and social service programs. Call (915) 775-2700 to apply over the phone or [click here](#) to apply online.

El Paso City Council unanimously approved an ordinance that prevents utilities from being disconnected for late payment during the COVID-19 emergency.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Unemployment Support

The 10-day investigation period for people applying for unemployment benefits has been waived. If your employment has been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19), apply for benefits either online at any time using [Unemployment Benefits Services](#) or by calling TWC's Tele-Center at 800-939-6631 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday.

Due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Texas and the Governor's Executive Order on Friday, June 26, 2020, TWC has decided to pause the reinstatement of work search requirements until further notice. TWC will make further evaluations and recommendations regarding the reinstatement of the work search requirement in late July.

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid has provided a [web page with resources](#), including questions employees may have about their [legal rights and other questions regarding time off from work](#).

If you have been impacted by COVID-19, locate information and resources for employers seeking workers or as a jobseeker seeking employment or other support services when you [sign-up for TWC COVID-19 updates](#).

TWC has [extended payment deadlines for designated reimbursing employers](#) that are required to pay a share of unemployment benefits.

Small Business Resources

The programs and initiatives in the [CARES Act](#) aim to assist business owners. For a [COMPLETE LIST of SBA programs click here](#).

Texas small businesses eligible for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan can [directly apply for assistance](#). The online application is the fastest method to receive a decision about loan eligibility.

If you have questions about SBA resources call 1-800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES (cont.)

If you are a small business and need capital to cover the cost of retaining employees, learn about the [Paycheck Protection Program](#).

If you need a quick infusion of a smaller amount of cash to cover your business, consider applying for the [Emergency Economic Injury Grant](#) when you apply for an SBA loan.

If you might benefit from free counseling to help you navigate economic challenges related to COVID-19, consult with [SBA resource partners](#) who might help.

The Texas Senate Committee on Business and Commerce has compiled a [comprehensive list of federal, state and other resources](#).

The Texas Comptroller's office is providing assistance in the form of short-term payment agreements, and, in most instances, waivers of penalties and interest. Contact the Enforcement Hotline at 800-252-8880 to learn more or visit [COVID-19 emergency response webpage](#) for access to online tools, tutorials and other resources for tax services, and to establish 24/7 online account access with [Webfile](#).

[County and City of El Paso](#) have partnered with [LiftFund](#) to bring relief to small businesses that are being impacted by COVID-19. LiftFund is offering 0% interest loans and grants to businesses who qualify.

[The Texas Farm Bureau has released free CARES Act Trainings for famers](#).

Find additional grants [here](#).

Microenterprise Support

[Project Vida](#) provides microenterprise technical assistance to help people understand and apply for the emergency federal funding. Learn more about microenterprise services [here](#).

PUBLIC UTILITIES

El Paso City Council unanimously approved an [ordinance](#) that prevents utilities, including water, electricity, cable, internet and gas from being disconnected for late payment during the city's coronavirus emergency.

The [Public Utilities Commission](#), which regulates power, water, and sewer utilities across the state, has prohibited utilities from disconnecting services or charging late fees during the COVID-19 emergency.

If your service is in danger of being disconnected or are getting charged late fees for non-payment, please file a complaint via phone, web, or email: 888-782-8477, customer@puc.texas.gov, www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/complaint/Complaint.aspx

- [El Paso Electric](#)
- [El Paso Water](#)
- [El Paso Gas](#)
- [AT&T](#)
- [Spectrum](#)



PUBLIC UTILITIES (cont.)

While this ordinance prevents disconnection of services, it does not forgive outstanding balances or cancel your obligation to pay for service.

Project BRAVO's Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) assists low-income households in meeting their immediate energy needs through [utility bill assistance](#) and energy education that encourages consumers to control energy use and costs. The organization offers various resources for those who qualify.

FOODS, MEALS AND PROVISIONS

Special Shopping Hours for Vulnerable Populations

Special hours are offered for those aged 60+, pregnant women and those with compromised immune systems across El Paso:

Walmart- 7am-8am every Tuesday

Albertsons- 7am-9am every Tuesday and Thursday

Whole Foods Market- 7am-8am each day

Target- 8am-9am every Wednesday

Vista Supermarket- 6:30am-7am each day

Dollar General- 8am-9am each day

Food Assistance

COVID-19 food benefit (Pandemic-EBT) for school-aged children - DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JULY 31

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) extended the application deadline for the [federal Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer program](#) (P-EBT) from June 30 to July 31. Extending the deadline will help ensure eligible families have time to apply for this one-time food benefit.

P-EBT is a one-time benefit of \$285 per eligible child and can be used in the same way as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits to pay for groceries.

P-EBT is for children up to 21 years old who were getting free or reduced-price meals at school in Texas during the 2019-20 school year. Children who attend a school that offers free meals to all students are also eligible. This benefit is available to children regardless of citizenship status.

Parents or guardians should have received a letter from their school district including a link and a toll-free phone number to apply for the benefits for their children. If your child received free or reduced-price meals at school, but you did not receive a letter from your school district, **you may call 833-613-6220 (in English or Spanish) to find out if your child is eligible for the benefit.**

[Click here for more information](#) and answers to other questions about P-EBT at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's website.



FOOD, MEALS AND PROVISIONS (cont.)

WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)

There are additional options for certain food items WIC participants can buy. These food items include more options for milk, bread, rice, pasta and eggs. In addition, Texas WIC is permanently adding canned fruits and vegetables to the food package. Items at the grocery store with a pink sticker that says “WIC Approved” are products eligible for shoppers to purchase using WIC.

WIC participants can find detailed information on the [Texas WIC website](#). WIC participants can also download the latest version of the MyTexasWIC shopping app on the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#), which informs families what the allowable food items are on their benefit package.

Texas WIC is operating under modified services throughout the state to help keep clients and staff safe. Families may call their local WIC clinics to learn more about how they can receive services. Visit the Texas WIC [website](#) or call 800-942-3678 to find how your local clinic is handling local services.

Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will provide approximately \$182 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of July as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. HHSC received federal approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum, allowable amount of SNAP benefits to recipients based on family size.

More than 950,000 SNAP households will see the additional amount on their Lone Star Card by July 11. Administered by HHSC, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1.4 million eligible low-income families and individuals in Texas. Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid, at [YourTexasBenefits.com](#) or use the Your Texas Benefits mobile app to manage their benefits.

Starting May 13, SNAP recipients can visit participating retailer websites and use their Lone Star Card to purchase groceries for curbside pickup or delivery. Currently, participating retailers in Texas are [Walmart](#) and [Amazon](#).

This expedited launch is the latest in the COVID-19 response for SNAP recipients in Texas, which includes recipients having their [renewal requirements temporarily waived](#) and receiving the [maximum eligible allotment](#) by household. SNAP recipients will see the maximum allotment amount on their Lone Star Card by May 15 and do not need to take any further action to receive additional benefits.

For Students:

School Districts are offering free meals to all students under 18, regardless of which district you live in. [Find a distribution site nearest you.](#)

Use the [TEA Meal Finder](#) to locate school meals across Texas.

For Community:

[El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank's](#) COVID-19 response team has modified its [emergency food box drive-thru distribution schedule](#) to ensure broad coverage across El Paso County. Plan ahead and expect long lines.

[One Grub Community](#) offers free meals on a “Pay it Forward” basis. Contact to see if there are meals available at (915) 588-7078 or visit 901 Arizona St. Wed-Fri 8am-7pm/Sat 10am-2pm.



FAMILY RESOURCES

UTEP students may [access pantry services at Memorial Gym](#) beginning at 9am on March 23, 2020.

Child Care and Day Camps:

The [YWCA](#) offers educational camps at six YWCA locations from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

[Essential workers are eligible for child care subsidies from the state of Texas.](#)

First responders and those working in the healthcare, pharmacy, mail/delivery services, critical local and state government offices, nursing homes, child care facilities, home healthcare, military, grocery stores, gas stations, banks, restaurants and other direct service providers may qualify for childcare subsidies through the YWCA. Childcare is offered for children 0-12 years of age. Call (915) 519-0000 to see if you qualify.

[Child Care Services](#) participants are accepted for these camps and YWCA also offers scholarships for households with an income of \$38,000 or less. Information on [scholarships](#) is available.

YWCA Locations and contact info:

West Side: 313 Bartlett Dr. - 915-519-0108
 Central: 1600 Brown St. - 915-519-0107
 Northeast: EPCC Transmountain Campus, 9570 Gateway N, 915-831-5832
 Lower Valley: 115 N. Davis - 915-519-0105 & EPCC Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter Dr. - 915-931-2123
 Eastside: 10712 Sam Snead - 915-519-0106

[Project Vida \(en español\)](#), per the governor's executive order, is only accepting children (ages 0-12) of essential personnel and employees of essential businesses. Parents must bring a letter from their employer as to their essential personnel status or the essential status of the business they work for. Space and scholarships are currently available. Updates are made weekly in the Frontline Childcare Availability portal at <https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/>. Call (915) 533-7057, ext. 208 or 213 for more information.

The [YMCA](#) has extended [day camps](#) during school closures.

Locations and contact info:

Eastside: 2044 Trawood - (915) 590-9622
 North East: 5509 Will Ruth - (915) 755-9622
 Westside: 7145 N Mesa - (915) 584-9622

Parent Support

Beginning May 15, 2020, the Child Guidance Center will offer [PARENT CONNECTIONS VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS](#) in English and Spanish by their licensed therapists. For questions, contact Ashley Armendariz at (915) 562-1999, ext. 1025

A partir del 15 de mayo de 2020, el Child Guidance Center ofrecerá [GRUPOS DE APOYO VIRTUAL CONEXIONES de PADRES](#) en inglés y español por sus terapeutas autorizados. Para preguntas, comuníquese con Ashley Armendariz al (915) 562-1999, ext. 1025.

Educational and Recreational Activities

The [Intercultural Development Research Association](#) is an independent, non-profit organization that provides training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.



FAMILY RESOURCES (cont.)

Visit the IDRA [Learning Goes On](#) COVID-19 for free [webinars](#) for teachers, administrators, and families. Explore a free online [Community of Practice](#) for educators, families, and communities to connect, share information about best practices, and access resources to address the new educational realities due to COVID-19. Browse guides with research-based tips on Ensuring Equity in Online Learning ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) and Best Practices for Online Instruction ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)). IDRA also releases weekly COVID updates, including analyses of the latest federal, state, and local policy decisions. The first, [related to testing waivers, is here](#).

Resources to Prevent Child Abuse

For Children and Adolescents:

[Child Help Hotline](#)
[How to Handle Abuse](#)
[What is Abuse?](#)

For Educators:

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
[Speak Up and Be Safe Information](#)

Resources for Parents of School Aged Children

Browse this [complete list](#) of resources, compiled by parents for children who are learning at home during school closures.

[PBS](#) offers resources for school aged children, to include educational activities, games, tools and materials for those learning from home during school closures.

Arts and Culture Resources

Google Arts and Culture has partnered with 2,500 museums and galleries around the world to offer [virtual tours of their spaces](#). Some of the options include New York's Museum of Modern Art and Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum. The Louvre, based in Paris, is also offering its own virtual tour online for free.

Virtual Adventures

National parks are also providing virtual tours. Virtual visitors can travel through the trails of [Yellowstone National Park](#), as well as the [Yosemite National Park](#). Families can tour zoos and learn about animals without leaving home, as well. The [San Diego Zoo](#), the [Georgia Aquarium](#) and the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) are offering live webcam viewings of pandas, penguins and beluga whales.

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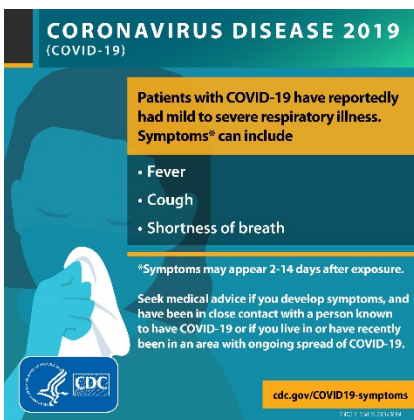
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The [McDonald Observatory offers a virtual star-gazing program](#), recorded live from the Davis Mountains in West, Texas.

County and State Parks

[Ascarate Park reopened on May 1, 2020 with some restrictions.](#)

The [Franklin Mountains State Park](#) opened for day use on May 22, 2020. A reservation is required and the public is advised that some trails remain closed.



FAMILY RESOURCES (cont.)

[Hueco Tanks State Park](#) is open with concessionaire-led tours of East Mountain and West Mountain limited to four participants. Camping returned May 18th.

The [Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains](#) opened to weekend only reservations on May 18th .

[Big Bend Ranch State Park](#) – Areas along FM170 are open for day use, interior of park property is closed. Interior opened to camping and day use on May 18th with decreased levels of occupancy.

[Davis Mountains State Park](#) – Open for day use. Camping returned May 18th to honor existing reservations.

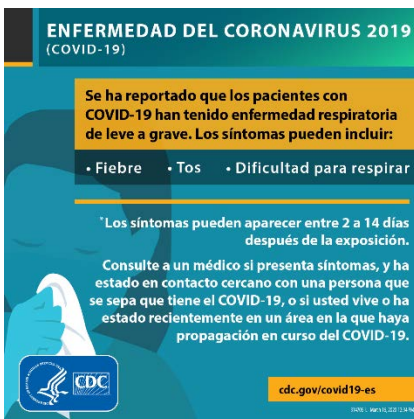
[Fort Leaton State Park](#) – Grounds are open for day use, but interior spaces are closed.

The Chinati Mountains and the Wyler Aerial Tramway are closed for non-COVID reasons.

If you are planning to visit the Franklin Mountains State Park, Hueco Tanks State Park, Davis Mountains State Park or Big Bend Ranch State Park:

- Advance reservations are required - reserve them online or by calling (512) 389-8900
- Face coverings are required
- No groups of over five people are allowed
- Maintain at least a six-foot distance from people not in your group.
- All park headquarters, visitor centers, park stores and group sites (halls, campsites, etc.) are closed.
- The park has cancelled all in-person events and equipment rentals and loans.

Park hours may be adjusted, check park hours before you visit.



STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP

For [updates](#) on UTEP's response to COVID-19 and related resources for students [click here](#).

[Information for AP Students affected by COVID-19 can be found here.](#)

EPCC

For [updates](#) on EPCC's response to COVID-19 and related resources for students [click here](#).

K-12

Schools across Texas remain closed by Executive Order of the Governor. Find information and resources through the [Texas Education Agency](#).

Special Education and Special Populations

If you or your child receive SPED services, the [Texas Education Agency has outlined specific guidance](#) to serve the special education population.



STUDENT RESOURCES (cont.)

This [Questions and Answers](#) document outlines states' responsibilities to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families, and to the staff serving these children.

[Information for AP Students affected by COVID-19 can be found here.](#)

EPCC

For [updates](#) on EPCC's response to COVID-19 and related resources for students [click here](#).

K-12

Schools across Texas remain closed by Executive Order of the Governor. Find information and resources through the [Texas Education Agency](#).

Special Education and Special Populations

If you or your child receive SPED services, the [Texas Education Agency has outlined specific guidance](#) to serve the special education population.

This [Questions and Answers](#) document outlines states' responsibilities to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families, and to the staff serving these children.

[Annual academic assessment requirements \(STAAR tests\) for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year have been suspended.](#)

[Information about internet service for students during school closure can be found here.](#)

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS**Elegibilidad de Inmigrantes Para Programas Públicos**

[Esta tabla](#) proporciona una descripción general de algunos de los programas públicos federales disponibles para apoyar a individuos y familias durante la crisis de COVID-19 según la ley vigente, así como la Ley de Respuesta al

Coronavirus de Familias Primero y la Ley de Ayuda y Seguridad Económica Coronavirus (CARES), aprobadas recientemente.

[Important updates](#) on federal resources for immigrants are available through [United We Dream](#).

[For help understanding the impact of key provisions of COVID-19 Relief Bills on Immigrant Communities](#)

El [Fondo de Emergencia Económica COVID-19: Del Pueblo para el Pueblo](#) se estableció para ayudar a apoyar a los miles de trabajadores esenciales y sus familias que quedaron fuera de los esfuerzos federales de asistencia financiera establecidos en respuesta a COVID-19 debido a su estado migratorio u otras circunstancias atenuantes. Para información: Border Network for Human Rights:

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS (cont.)

(915)- (915) 577-0724.

Unemployment

Texas Workforce Commission ha publicado su sitio web [en español](#).

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits if you are:

-Legally residing in the U.S.

-Authorized to work in the U.S.:

- 1) At the time you earned your base-period wages
- 2) When you apply for benefits
- 3) While requesting benefits

-Able to satisfy the requirements of Form I-9 [Employment Eligibility Verification](#)

[DACA recipients and people with Employment Authorization Documents can apply for unemployment](#) as long as they have a valid work permit.

Financial Assistance

The Betancourt Macias Family Scholarship Foundation provides emergency funding for immigrants who qualify. Those who are undocumented or know someone who is undocumented and have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, can [fill out the scholarship request form](#).

Public Utility Assistance

Project BRAVO's Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) assists low-income households in meeting their immediate energy needs through [utility bill assistance](#) and energy education that encourages consumers to control energy use and costs. The organization offers various resources for those who qualify.

Healthcare

[University Medical Center](#) and [Centro San Vicente](#) provide integrated primary and preventive care, including behavioral health, and are currently providing COVID-19 screening and testing.

You may also contact [Project Vida](#) to schedule an appointment for NON-COVID-19 services.

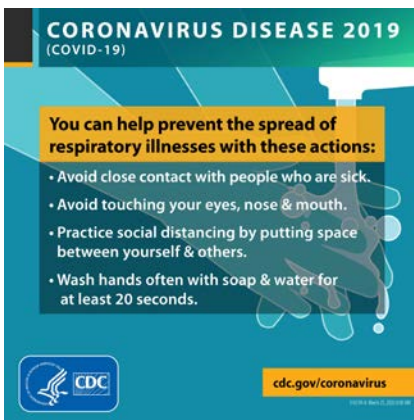
[Planned Parenthood](#) currently offers urgent health services. Schedule pain/infection exams, suspected breast mass exam, emergency contraception, Depo Provera birth control and PrEP/PEP HIV prevention. Birth control is available via PPDirect telemedicine for patients 18 and older for pills/patch/ring. STI screening and treatments, and transgender patient appointments are also available.

[Center Against Sexual and Family Violence / Centro en Contra de la Violencia Sexual y Familiar](#) will not turn away clients who are seeking shelter during this time of social isolation. Call (915) 593-7300 if you are facing sexual or family violence require support or assistance.

VETERAN RESOURCES

The [Texas Veteran's Commission](#) and [Texas Veterans Land Board](#) will provide services virtually to protect veterans and staff. The TVC may be reached by phone at (512) 463-6564. The VLB may be reached at 1-800-252-VETS.

The [Veteran's Administration](#) asks veterans who think they may have COVID-19 to please call their local VA clinic BEFORE going to a clinic or emergency room. Some non-urgent surgeries may be rescheduled until after quarantines are lifted.





VETERAN RESOURCES (cont.)

and all prescriptions normally delivered by mail will continue. For those veterans who pick up prescriptions at a VA clinic, the VA recommends a minimum of ten days of medication and to contact your local clinic prior to arriving in-person.

Mental Health Services

The [Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors](#), provides high-quality, accessible, and integrated mental health care to veterans and their families, regardless of role while in uniform, discharge status.

Emergency Funds

The [Child Crisis Center](#) provides emergency child care (24hrs or longer), emergency food or shelter to honorably discharged veterans and active military.

[Endeavors, Inc- Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) provides housing, case management, and homeless services for veterans across Texas. As of 2018-04-23, emergency financial aid is only for VASH clients.

[Operation Homefront of Texas](#) provides emergency funds for OEF/OIF military families and families of veterans, needs must be directly due to post 9/11/ service. Emergency funds, food, home repair, critical baby items, home appliances, auto repair, furniture and local moves.

[Project Amistad](#) provides counseling and employment help for homeless veterans and all discharge types.

[Project Vida Emergency Rent and Rapid Rehousing](#) offers rent, mortgage and utility payment help, foreclosure prevention assistance, and rapid rehousing for the homeless.

The [Salvation Army](#) provides emergency payments, food and jobs help for veterans and their families.

VOLUNTEER AND SUPPORT

The State of Texas is seeking critical equipment and capacity for medical providers, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), alternate care sites, and infection-control products. If you have products, sites, or equipment available for the state to consider procuring, please click the appropriate links found [here](#).

If you are an active or retired health care provider, a medical or nursing student, or just a Texan who wants to help, you may [volunteer here](#).

If you are healthy and understand how to practice precautions, volunteer at the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger food bank. Register for a shift [here](#) or donate [here](#).

If you are healthy and able, donate blood at Vitalant. Make an appointment [here](#).

To support local non-profits in the region, consider donating to the Paso del Norte Community Foundation's [El Paso COVID-19 Response Fund](#)

If you have the means and would like to support local food and beverage workers you may do so through the [Food and Beverage Workers Fund](#).

For further assistance contact:

Office of State Senator
José Rodríguez
(915) 351-3500

jose.rodriguez@senate.texas.gov

To share or request information about additional community resources contact:

Xochitl Rodríguez
Director of Community Affairs
(915) 351-3500

xochitl.rodriguez@senate.texas.gov

