

SENATE DISTRICT 29

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

UPDATED 5/15/2020

Inside This Guide

- 1 [COVID-19 in Our Community](#)
- 2 [Government Resources](#)
- 3 [Healthcare Resources](#)
- 4 [Housing Resources](#)
- 5 [Unemployment & Small Business Resources](#)
- 6 [Public Utilities](#)
- 7 [Food Meals & Provisions](#)
- 8 [Resources for Families](#)
- 9 [Student Resources](#)
- 10 [Immigrant Resources](#)
- 11 [Veteran Resources](#)
- 12 [Volunteer and Support](#)

"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 steps you can take are to prevent contracting the virus. Wash your hands thoroughly, for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth. Practice [social distancing](#) to the greatest extent possible. Wear face coverings when in public or at work. [Stay informed](#) and understand what's needed from YOU.

If you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home! For info on what to do if you're sick, call your primary care physician or 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.](#)

The hotline is open from 7 am to 8 pm on Monday to Friday, and from 10 am to 6 pm from Saturday to Sunday.

For a comprehensive local guide on health, education, and economic services, visit [Paso del Norte Health Foundation](#).

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

State of Texas

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

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

[Gov. Abbott's Stay Home order has expired](#), and his latest executive orders remove some restrictions that were implemented to slow the spread of COVID-19.

These new executive orders supersede all City and County Stay Home, Work Safe orders. Here are highlights of the most recent order, [EO-GA 21](#):

- Texans, except where necessary to provide or obtain an essential service or a reopened service, should continue to minimize social gatherings and in person contact with those who are not in the same household.
- People over the age of 65 are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible. Individuals are encouraged to avoid contact with those 65 and older.
- Those who do leave the home, whether young or old, should implement social distancing and good hygiene
- Essential Services include those listed under CISA guidance as well as churches, congregations, and places of worship
- Reopened Services consist of the following:
 - o In-store retail at 25% occupancy (25% does not include employees)
 - o Dine-in at restaurants at 25% occupancy (no occupancy limit on outside seating; 25% does not include employees)
 - o Movie theaters at 25% occupancy (25% does not include employees)
 - o Shopping malls at 25% occupancy (food court, play areas, and interactive displays must remain closed) (25% does not include employees)
 - o Museums and libraries at occupancy of 25% (25% does not include employees)
 - o Golf course operations
 - o Local government operations
 - o Services provided by one individual in an office setting (note this will be expanded on Monday, May 18th)
 - o Wedding venues and services required to conduct weddings, subject to either the guidelines on churches (if held in a church) or at 25% of indoor occupancy (if held indoors at a non-church). Note, it is strongly encouraged to hold weddings outside
 - o Wedding receptions, subject to the guidelines on restaurants (if held at a restaurant) or subject to 25% of indoor capacity (if held indoors). Again, strongly encouraged to hold outside.



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.)

Starting on Friday, May 8, 2020, the following will be opened:

- Cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, and nail salons may open but should follow guidelines set forth in Open Texas
- Tanning Salons may open but should follow guidelines set forth in Open Texas
- Swimming pools may operate if outdoor or indoor but must follow occupancy levels set forth

Starting on Monday, May 18, 2020, the following will be opened:

- Services provided in an office may operate with the greater of five individuals or 25% of the total office workforce
- Non-essential manufacturing [services] at 25% occupancy
- Gyms and exercise facilities and classes, whether indoor, outdoor, individual, or group, at a 25% occupancy

As previously was the case in GA-18, counties with five or fewer active case counts can file proper attestation forms with DSHS to allow for occupancy limits of 50% for those facilities otherwise limited to 25% occupancy.

The order references the Department of State Health Resources (DSHS) minimum standard health protocols, both general and industry-specific. These protocols are outlined in the Open Texas Checklists within [the Governor's Report](#) beginning on page 20.

El Paso Stay Home, Work Safe orders

Everyone is strongly urged to stay at home, and continue to exercise social distancing, proper hygiene, and the use of face coverings. Effective May 1st, the City and County orders include the following:

- Social gatherings continue to be strongly discouraged.
- People who are over 65 or considered part of a vulnerable population are strongly encouraged to continue to remain at home and limit contact as much as possible with persons from outside their homes.
- Essential businesses, which have been operating, will be allowed to continue to operate with the safety protocols already in place.
- Retail, restaurants, movie theaters, and malls will be allowed to open with certain restrictions:
 - o At 25% capacity only
 - o Must operate with the same safety protocols in place for essential businesses and retail to go businesses
- Face coverings are required for all employees while working at essential businesses, retail to go operations or the new businesses allowed to operate at 25% capacity.
- Golf courses and tennis courts will be open, and fishing will be allowed with safety protocols in place.
- City of El Paso parks remain closed except for walking on designated walking paths.
- Museums and libraries will remain closed.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES (cont.)

Put simply, everyone should limit their contact to those in their household (or in their workplace if they work at an essential business) and only travel outside their home wearing a mask for basic necessities like food, medications, gas, and banks.

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

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

If you are stopped by the police for compliance- **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS** si la policía lo/a detiene.

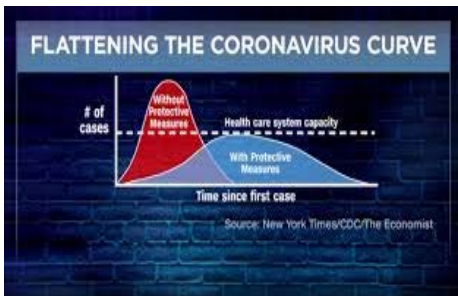
Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

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

[Stay up to date on measures that have been taken in Ciudad Juarez to slow the spread of the virus there.](#)

[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](#).

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](#)

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; 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. [For that and other state information about the virus you may visit the Texas Department of State Health Services by clicking here.](#)

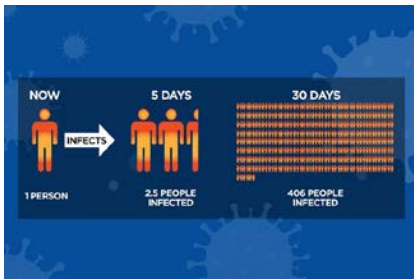
The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services has compiled [a comprehensive document with information for providers.](#)

For the latest state waivers, 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 National Guard has set up mobile testing sites in El Paso County for 10 days, beginning May 11th. Make an appointment at www.txcovidtest.org or by calling 512-883-2400.



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

The City's drive-thru site will now provide testing for anyone (regardless of age) who has symptoms like fever, cough and shortness of breath. 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

If you require medical attention and do not have a primary health care provider or health insurance [Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso](#) and [Centro San Vicente](#) 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.

[Emergence Health Network](#) provides services for mental health, developmental disability, and related conditions for the people of El Paso County.

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](#) continues to offer SUD services for individuals in recovery. For assistance you may call (915) 782-4000.

[Project Vida](#) is providing tele-health services for behavioral health with a sliding scale and on-line registration. LPC's and LCSW's are available as is support from their staff Child and Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrists. Medications are available for home delivery for patients. Substance Use Disorder Peer Recovery

HEALTHCARE RESOURCES (cont.)

Services are available to insured and uninsured alike without regard to ability to pay. 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](https://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.](#)

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

The City of El Paso has passed an [ordinance](#) prohibiting evictions during this state of emergency. Should you or someone you know be threatened with an eviction, whether residential or business, contact COVIDcompliance@elpasotexas.gov or the El Paso Police Department's non-emergency line at (915) 832-4400.

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](#).



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

HOUSING RESOURCES (cont.)

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

“Self-help evictions are not allowed in Texas. This means landlords have to allow a legal process to remove their tenants. Evictions begin with a notice, followed by a lawsuit in Justice Court, a hearing and an appeal to county court, if necessary, and finally, a writ of possession if the tenant has not moved out. The writs involve the constable and sheriff physically removing people and their belongings from the property. On March 19, 2020, the Texas Supreme Court paused all eviction proceedings until April 19, 2020 and writs until April 26, 2020, with the exception of cases involving a threat of harm or criminal activity. We hope this brings some peace of mind to tenants, but are aware that this does not waive their obligation to pay the rent- it only delays how quickly they can be removed from the home. This underscores the importance of emergency funds for tenants and their landlords.” -Veronica Carbajal, Attorney, TRLA, Inc.

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

[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.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES (cont.)

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.

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](#)

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

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.

SNAP Online Ordering and Delivery Services

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.

Pandemic EBT program for children who receive free/reduced school meals:

Texas received authorization to distribute more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to families with children who have temporarily lost access to free or discounted school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

- Families with children aged 5 to 18 who received SNAP food benefits for the month of March, when school campuses first closed, will automatically receive P-EBT on their current Lone Star Card by May 22.

- Families who have children certified for free or reduced-price meals during the 2019-20 school year but did not receive SNAP benefits for the month of March will need to apply.

- Families with children who received meals at no cost to them because their schools are defined as Community Eligibility Provision or Provision II schools also need to apply. Those families will receive a notification from their school district by May 31 which will include eligibility information and how to access the application. The application will be open from June 1 to June 30, and



FOOD, MEALS AND PROVISIONS (cont.)

applications will be processed in the order they are received. After completing the application, eligible families will receive benefits on a new Texas P-EBT card in the mail.

Visit www.hhs.texas.gov/pebt to learn more.

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.

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



FAMILY RESOURCES

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.



FAMILY RESOURCES (cont.)

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.

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.



FAMILY RESOURCES (cont.)

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.

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.

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 remains CLOSED.](#)

[Hueco Tanks State Park is open for day use, concessionaire led tours of East Mountain and West Mountain limited to four participants. Camping to return May 18th. The Indian Lodge in the Davis Mountains is closed and will reopen to weekend only reservations beginning May 18th .](#)

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

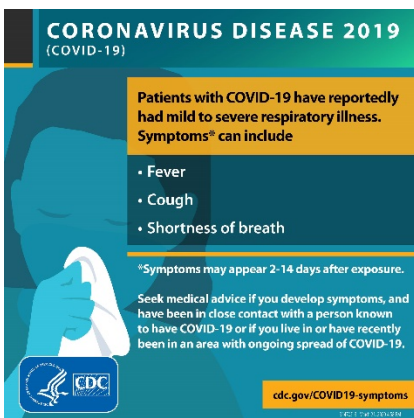
[Davis Mountains – Open for day use. Camping to return May 18th to honor existing reservations.](#)

[Fort Leaton – 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 [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 (cont.)

STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP

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

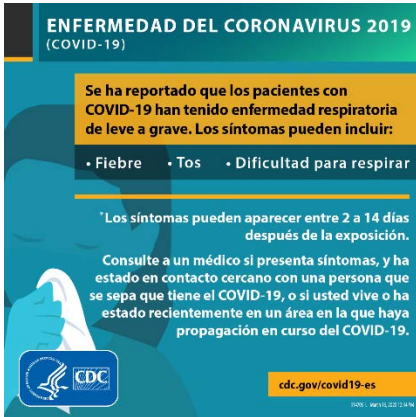
If you or your child receive SPED services, the [Texas Education Agency has outlined specific guidance](#) to serve the special education population.

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.](#)

[Information for AP Students affected by COVID-19 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.

VA Education Line: 1-888-442-4551

VA Health Line: 1-800-827-1000

The Veteran's Crisis Line is operational 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255.

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.

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 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.

VA Education Line: 1-888-442-4551

VA Health Line: 1-800-827-1000

The Veteran's Crisis Line is operational 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255.

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.

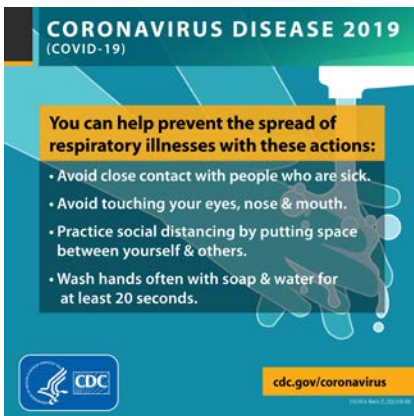
[Endeavors, Inc- Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) provides housing, case management, and homeless services for veterans across Texas. As of 2018-04-23, emergency financial aid is only for VASH clients.

[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.rodriquez@senate.texas.gov

To share or request information about additional community resources contact:

Xochitl Rodríguez
Director of Community Affairs
Office of State Senator
José Rodríguez

xochitl.rodriquez@senate.texas.gov