



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacey Osborne
City of Taylor Communications Office
stacey.osborne@taylortx.gov
512-352-5448 (ofc.)
512-365-9310 (cell)

CITY OF TAYLOR ADJUSTS SERVICES, SCHEDULES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

TAYLOR, Texas – The City of Taylor is modifying its operations and some public services will be suspended for the remainder of the month. This is being done to maintain the health and safety of City employees and the community at large while providing critical City services.

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell has issued an order stating community gatherings of 50 people or more anywhere in Williamson County have been prohibited for the next eight weeks to slow the transmission of COVID-19. The ban on public or private gatherings, part of Orders adopted by Judge Gravell, take effect 6 p.m. Monday, March 16, and will continue until Monday, May 11, 2020, unless otherwise extended or terminated by the Williamson County Judge or by action of the Williamson County Commissioners Court.

There will be no changes to essential City services including public safety, trash, and recycling pick up, and City of Taylor water and sewer services.

As of tomorrow, the following service changes will be in effect:

- Taylor Public Library will be closed through March 31.
- All scheduled programs, activities, and rentals scheduled at Taylor Parks will be canceled through May 11.
- Taylor Municipal Court will be closed through March 31. All Municipal Court trials and appearances will be rescheduled, and defendants will be notified by Municipal Court staff of the rescheduled dates.
- Splash pads at all City parks will continue to stay off until further notice.

- All City buildings, including City Hall, Public Works, Utility Billing, and Maintenance, will be closed to the public until March 31. Residents will still be able to contact City Hall employees through telephone or email.
- The Animal Shelter will be open for reclaims and adoptions only; no owner surrenders will be accepted through March 31.
- The front desk at City Hall will be closed.
- Permits for Development Services can be submitted through MyPermitNow.org.
 - Utility payments can be paid by mail, online, in the dropbox at City Hall, the drive-through, or by phone. Utility billing will waive all fees for credit card payments done online or by phone.
 - Disconnections will be waived through March 31.
 - Forms for Utility Billing and Development Services will be available in the lobby of City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Kite Day scheduled for March 28 has been canceled
- The Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 11 has been canceled

In many cases, in-person stakeholder meetings that are not time-sensitive will be canceled. Additionally, many boards and commissions meetings this week will be rescheduled or canceled.

City Council will meet on Monday, March 23, at 6 p.m. to discuss the possible extension of the Disaster Declaration. The City Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 26, is expected to move forward as planned. Leisure activities at Parks are still permitted, but residents are asked to follow Judge Gravell' guidelines of no more than 50 people per gathering.

“While there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Taylor, we believe these changes in City services are important steps to help prevent the spread of this virus in our community,” said City Manager Brian LaBorde. “We are carefully monitoring the situation and will make adjustments as necessary, acting on guidance from Williamson County and the Williamson County and Cities Health District.”

City employees that are able will begin transitioning to teleworking schedules throughout this upcoming week. For employees unable to telework, increasing the physical working space among employees and modifying operations are among the options being evaluated.

Please share and encourage others to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The City of Taylor continues to monitor this ongoing and fluid situation closely with the Williamson County and WCCHD. Updates will be posted at taylortx.gov and on social media as they become available.

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