

On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Denton County issued a mandated county ordinance after evidence of community-spread cases of COVID-19 that:

Restricts all community gatherings across Denton County to 50 people or fewer.

Orders the closing of all bars, lounges, taverns, nightclubs, gyms and health clubs, theaters, and entertainment or amusement venues. Restaurants, for now, may remain open for drive-thru, delivery, pickup, and curbside service only. Dine-in service is prohibited.

This order removes restrictions on delivery times to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies in Denton County for the next 60 days.

On Thurs, March 19, 2020, Texas Governor Abbot issued a state-mandated ordinance which includes closure of bars, lounges, taverns, nightclubs, gyms and health clubs, theaters, and entertainment or amusement venues. Restaurants can continue to-go, delivery, or curbside pickup options.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

TO-GO | DELIVERY:

Texas Gov. Abbot waived regulations to deliver alcohol and allows buy-back program:

"The State of Texas is committed to supporting retailers, restaurants, and their employees," said Governor Abbott. "These waivers will allow restaurants to provide enhanced delivery options to consumers during this temporary period of social distancing."

Restaurants that hold mixed beverage permits can deliver beer, wine, or mixed drinks when accompanied by food purchase.

The buy-back waiver allows alcohol distributors and manufacturers to repurchase excess inventory from restaurants, bars, and clubs affected by event cancellations due to COVID-19.

GET RELIEF FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS – Economic Injury Disaster Loan

Fill out your [Economic Injury Worksheet](https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/#1584551794550-8cefdca0-1039) as soon as possible. Click here:

<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/#1584551794550-8cefdca0-1039>

Low-interest, federal disaster loans are available for working capital to small businesses suffering economic injury as a result of COVID-19 with interest rates of 3.75% (2.75% if nonprofit). These loans may be used for paying fixed debts, payroll, and accounts payable. Other bills unable to be paid due to disaster's impact. Long-term repayments to keep it affordable – maximum of 30yrs

For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov (link sends e-mail).

DENTON COUNTY BUSINESS RESOURCES FOR COVID-19

- Denton County Public Health Department | COVID-19 Updates & Information <https://dentoncounty.gov/coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | COVID-19 Updates & Information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>
- OSHA's Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>
- U.S. Small Business Association | Disaster Assistance & Resources <https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- Department of Homeland Security | Business Continuity Plan <https://www.ready.gov/business-continuity-plan>
- U.S. Chamber | Guidance for Employers https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/guidance_for_employers_to_plan_and_respond_to_coronavirus.pdf
- U.S. Department of Labor | Coronavirus Resources <https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>
- Denton County Public Health www.facebook.com/WeAreDCPH, Twitter: @WeAreDCPH
- Denton County Economic Development www.dentoncounty.gov/Departments/Economic-Development

For questions, concerns, or help navigating the latest information, please email Little Elm Economic Development Corporation: Jennette Espinosa, jke@littleelm.org, or Natasha Roach, nroach@littleelm.org.