

COVID-19 RESOURCE LIST

Rental Assistance

Brazoria County Housing Authority: 979-388-1427

Brazoria County Community Actions: 979-849-2928

River of Hope: 979-299-9464

Society of St. Stephen: A.M. calls only, Mon 979-297-2013, Tue 979-297-3046, Wed 979-297-7991

St Jerome's Catholic Church: Clute, 979-266-7122/ LJ, 979-2972046

Church of Christ: 979-297-2494

St. Thomas Center: 979-849-9458

The Dream Center: 979-388-0280

Unemployment Benefits: 512-463-2999;

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services>

Job Seekers: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-job-seekers>

School Meal Finder: <https://txschools.gov/>

Other Resources

United Way: 979-849-6402 www.uwbc.org

Brazosport Cares Food Pantry: 979-239-1225

The Dream Center Pantry: 979-388-0280

Home Delivered Meals: 979-297-9819, 979-292-4047

Salvation Army: 979-233-5420

The Food Basket: 979-388-0024

WIC: 979-265-4431

Call 2-1-1 for Health, food, housing, and other assistance

Call 7-1-1 for Relay Service

COVID-19 Stimulus Bill Update

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is taking action to implement new laws and working with the Department of while continuing to work tirelessly to process unemployment insurance claims caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

What does the Coronavirus Stimulus Bill mean for me?

If you are self-employed, a contract worker or previously worked in a position that did not report wages, you may qualify for unemployment!

How do you apply?

If you applied for unemployment benefits but lacked the necessary wages to qualify, no action is needed. TWC will determine if you qualify under the new stimulus bill and notify you by mail or electronic correspondence of your eligibility.

Request a Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Payment

If you have an active DUA claim, [request a benefits payment](#).

You Will Need:

Earnings amount for each week (if applicable)

- If you are employed:
- Number of hours you worked each week
- Your gross earnings amount for each week
- Work search activities for each week (if applicable).

If you are self-employed:

- Total amount of earnings and commissions before deductions (such as operating expenses).
- Gross income in the week you received the income, even if you performed the work in a prior week. For example, if you performed services in Week #1 but did not receive payment until Week #2, you must report the gross income in Week #2, the week when you were paid.

Reminder: You must supply TWC with proof of your employment within 21 days of applying for DUA.

See [Sending TWC Proof of Employment](#).

Brazoria, Harris and Fort Bend Counties Issue "Stay Home, Work Safe" Orders - What does this mean for the apartment industry?

On March 24, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Fort Bend County Judge KP George issued separate orders requiring all persons currently living in these counties to stay at home. Although the orders contained slightly difference language, both orders are essentially the same. The orders are not a surprising development since several other cities, counties and states have issued Stay at Home orders. There have been several questions asked about how the orders will affect persons who work and live in apartment communities.

What do the orders require?

All individuals currently within these counties are ordered to stay at their place of residence. Persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses. To the extent that individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all time as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet and other measures in accordance with CDC guidelines.

All businesses operating within either county, except Essential Businesses, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the county. Businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e. working from home). To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses are required to comply with social distancing guidelines, including maintaining six feet for both employees and the general public.

Can residents carry on with activities in common areas?

No. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided in the orders. However, nothing in the orders prohibit the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

What is considered "Essential Activities"?

For the purpose of the orders, individuals may leave their residence only to perform certain "Essential Activities" including the following:

- To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (for example, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a healthcare professional, or obtaining supplies needed to work at home);
- To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others (for example, food, pet supplies and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences);
- To engage in outdoor activities (for example, walking, biking, hiking, or running)
- To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in the orders; and
- To care for a family member or pet in another household.

What is considered an "Essential Business"?

For the purpose of the orders, "Essential Businesses" include (among other types of businesses) the following:

- **Essential critical infrastructure.** (Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)).
- **Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations.** (Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals).
- **Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses.** (This includes: (i) trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning, maintenance and security, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, and storage for Essential Businesses; (ii) plumbers, electricians, exterminators, yard and landscaping services or maintenance crews, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses; (iii) professional services such as legal or accounting services when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities; and (iv) businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with support or utilities needed to operate.

The Harris County Order provides that Essential Businesses also include professional services, such as insurance services, and "real estate services" when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities or to further Essential Businesses, Essential Government Functions or Critical Infrastructure.

Are apartment managers considered to be Essential Businesses under the orders?

Yes, to the extent that they provide Essential Activities, which includes providing essential products or services to Essential Businesses. The definition of Essential Activities and Essential Businesses are fairly broad and include building cleaning, maintenance and security and plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses.

Are businesses that support apartment communities considered Essential Businesses under the orders?

Yes. Businesses that supply Essential Businesses with support or utilities needed to operate are Essential Businesses under the orders. This would include companies that perform trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, and building cleaning, maintenance and security. It also includes plumbers, electrician, exterminators or other service providers that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation or essential operations of residences.

Do Essential Businesses need to exercise infection control precautions?

Yes. Infection control precautions are required of all Essential Business. Both orders require all Essential Businesses to practice social distancing. The Harris County Order also specifically requires Essential Businesses to: (i) provide access to hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; (ii) post a sign in a conspicuous place at the public entrance to the venue instructing members of the public not to enter if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever or cough; and (iii) adhere to the general communicable disease control recommendations of public health authorities.

If a resident has tested positive for COVID-19, must other residents of the same unit isolate?

Yes. The Harris County Order provides that if someone in a household has tested positive for COVID-19, all residents of the household are ordered to isolate at home until cleared by a public health authority or medical provider. The Fort Bend Order provides that any person who knows they have tested positive for or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or anyone who shares a household with such person shall abide by any order or instruction provided to them by an authorized medical professional or a local health authority to quarantine themselves.

What is the penalty for non-compliance of the orders?

Law enforcement agencies based in Harris County are authorized to enforce the Harris County Order and law enforcement agencies based in Fort Bend County are authorized to enforce the Fort Bend Order. The failure to comply with either order is an offense punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term of up to 180 days.

Should companies publicize the orders?

Yes. Each order strongly encourages owners, managers or operators of any facility that is impacted by the orders to post a copy of the respective order applicable to that facility onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. Additionally, each county has posted its order on its website. In these strange and challenging times, we have to adapt to whatever may be required to minimize the chance of transmission of the virus. No matter whether you are an Essential Business or not, always be careful to adhere to CDC guidelines and health authority mandates and respect the social distancing guidelines so that you can minimize the risk of exposure.