



REMARKS FROM MAYOR BOYTER

I wanted to take a moment to reach out to everyone and to reassure you that the City of Bedford has been actively monitoring and taking action in response to recent developments regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As you already know, our Nation, State, and City are and in the midst of experiencing unique events because of the pandemic spread of COVID-19. We have been in constant communication with our neighboring cities, HEB ISD, and the Tarrant County Public Health Department and have been coordinating responses and sharing information with each. In recent weeks and as a result of the information gathered from these discussions, Bedford has taken a number of steps to limit potential exposure to our residents and businesses. The City has closed public access to City facilities (including the Public Library, the Recreation Center, the Senior Center, and all other City buildings) with the exception of City Hall, Building A and the Police and Fire Departments. The City has also taken the lead in cancelling all City related public events for the next thirty days including but not limited to the Library Foundation Mardi Gras and Arts Fest. And, we have stepped up our communication with our businesses and expressed our recommendations for interacting with the public based on recent developments.

The City Council has been working with your city staff to ensure that programs are in place to protect their health and safety as well as see that essential services remain intact during these ever-changing times. Essential City services will take priority going forward. Please be comfortable in knowing that you will be able to continue to rely on the City providing you with Police, Fire, Paramedics, Trash Services, Public Works, Water and Sewer, and 911 services.

In the next few days, because of special authority provided by the State, I will be declaring a disaster due to a Public Health Emergency. In doing so, the City will be placing strict limits on the operations of all Bedford businesses in particular those that deal with the public. These limitations will be clearly spelled out and have been determined after careful consideration with the Tarrant County Public Health Department. In declaring this Emergency, Bedford will be able to take steps to support and supply essential City services as well as address budgeting issues that may arise as a result. As this state of emergency goes into effect, we will provide you with more specifics.

As a part of this declaration and as a matter of common sense, I would like to ask that everyone be respectful of others during this period. Please make a normal practice of utilizing “social distancing.” Take steps to routinely wash your hands and clean all areas of social contact in

your homes and businesses. And finally, please limit your need to go out in public. Let's be smart about our activities and interactions.

Thank you for all of your efforts during this difficult time. We recognize that these are extenuating circumstances and that everyone has been and will continue to make sacrifices in their daily routines. This situation remains highly fluid. Please be reassured that the City of Bedford will continue to monitor events going forward and will take whatever steps necessary to look out for the public welfare.

We will be providing you with regular updates going forward.

For more information:

Information on closures and/or cancellations are constantly being updated on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/bedfordtx and on the website at <https://www.bedfordtx.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=330>.

Additional information on how we can all pitch in to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 can be found on our website at www.bedfordtx.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=328.

The latest Tarrant County COVID-19 news can be found at <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/public-health.html>

M. Boyter

Mayor Michael Boyter