



**MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BOYTER**

**MARCH 19, 2020**

After careful consideration and in conjunction with the recommendations of Tarrant County and the Tarrant County Public Health Department, today the City of Bedford issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency. This Declaration has been made in order to proactively limit everyone's exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. This Declaration activates the City of Bedford Emergency Management Plan.

The Declaration limits: the size of gatherings to no more than 50 people; requires restaurants to only offer drive-in, drive-through, take out, or delivery services; orders the closure of all bars, amusements establishments, bingo halls, gyms, and private clubs; and limits to occupancy of Event Centers, Hotel Meeting Spaces, Ballrooms, Retail Stores, Convenience Stores, Plazas, Places of Worship to 50% occupancy or 125 individuals (whichever is less).

This Declaration has taken effect as of 12:01 pm today, March 19, 2020, and City Departments will be notifying all affected businesses as soon as possible.

Additionally, the City has cancelled all Volunteer activities, including but not limited to VIP's. Bedford has extended the timeline of its cancellations. All City related and sponsored events through May 2, 2020 have now been cancelled.

The City Council will be meeting in a special session next Wednesday to consider extending the Declaration, postponing the May election to adopt liquor sales, and to discuss how we will be conducting Council meetings going forward. The meeting will be shown on cable tv ( BTV )and online and we encourage everyone interested, to tune in from the safe confines of your home rather than attend. If you wish to speak to Council under *Open Forum*, we are working on making special exceptions to take your comments via email. More information on this will be given as specific details are decided.

For your information, the State of Texas has initiated a special hotline to address the impact of COVID-19. You may dial 2-1-1 or call 877-541-7905 and specialists from around the State will be available to answer your non-medical questions 24/7. More information may also be found at [www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org).

This is a rapidly changing environment and our responses will be amended as we continue to hear from our State and County authorities regarding the latest recommendations.

I will continue to keep you posted on the City's actions, as well as, provide you with the most up-to-date and helpful information. Thank you for all your efforts in supporting Bedford and the HEB community. It has been so encouraging to hear reports of neighbors helping neighbors and City staff assisting residents. I encourage everyone to continue supporting Bedford businesses. HEB has a unique and long history of people and communities supporting each other and I have no doubt that we will continue to do so during these extraordinary times. You make me proud to be from, and represent, the City of Bedford.