



**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

I hope everyone enjoyed the Blue Angel flyover this morning. Tarrant County Public Health reported 127 new cases overnight with 5 additional deaths and 1 additional recovery. This brings the County totals to 2,813 positive cases, 88 deaths, and 654 total recoveries to date. Bedford's numbers are holding at 64 cases, 13 recoveries, and 0 deaths.

Last night in a Special Work Session, the Bedford City Council discussed a wide range of topics related to the reopening of City facilities to the public and conducting regularly scheduled events and programming. After careful consideration, the Council decided to:

- **Open** all parks to the public including the Boy's Ranch, walking trails, and the dog park, with restrictions in place:
 - Restrooms will continue to be locked, water fountains are still turned off, benches removed to aid in social distancing, and signs remain reminding patrons that the playground areas are not sanitized. **Again, please adhere to ALL CDC guidelines with regards to social distancing in the parks and trails and refrain from using the equipment on the playgrounds.**
 - Group sports activities are still prohibited, and all baseball fields remain **closed**, including the fields at Meadowpark.
- **Open** the Library drive-up window to the public. Hours of operations can be found online at www.bedfordlibrary.org.
- **Open** the Boys Ranch tennis courts to the public.
- Keep City Hall Buildings A, B, and C **closed** to the public until further notice.
- Keep the Law Enforcement Center and the Fire Stations **closed** to the public until further notice.
- Keep the Boys Ranch Activity Center **closed** until further notice.
- Keep the Senior Center **closed** until further notice.
- Keep the Old Bedford School **closed** until further notice.
 - **However, City services do continue.** Animal Shelter adoptions can be made through appointments, water bills can be paid online, permits can be obtained via phone, Neighborhood Services officers will continue to patrol their districts, customer service is still available via phone, and more.
- Keep Roy Savage Pool **closed** until further notice.
- Keep the Bedford Splash Aquatics Center **closed** this summer.
- **Cancel** all summer programming, including summer camp in/at the various parks, the Boys Ranch Activity Center, and at Splash.
- **Cancel** Bedford 4thFest on July 4, 2020.
- **Cancel** Bedford Blues and BBQ Festival on September 4, 5, and 6, 2020.

In reaching the conclusion to open, keep, or cancel the items above, several factors were considered. First and foremost, protecting the health and safety of the residents and staff. Facilities that remain closed are being evaluated and certain safeguards and protocols are being implemented to accommodate social distancing once those facilities are ready to reopen. Anticipating the Governor's mandates and being aware of the uncertainties regarding large scale public gatherings in the future were additional elements discussed. Economics is also a factor. There is concern among members of Council, that putting money into events, such as 4thFest and BluesFest while the City continues to grapple with the budgetary impact of the "Stay at Home" orders, would not help ease the City's financial burden, now or in the future. We still don't know the true economic impact this unprecedented situation has had on our revenues for the remainder of this budget period but stay tuned. Staff will continue to provide updates to Council regarding budgetary implications and the status of opening Bedford City facilities to the public in the coming weeks.