



**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020**

Tarrant County Public Health reported 84 new cases overnight with 7 additional deaths. This brings the County totals to 4,643 positive cases, 130 deaths, and an estimated 1,586 recoveries to date. HEB cities continue to see gradual increases. Hurst is reporting 79 cases with 22 recoveries and 1 death. Bedford is reporting 82 cases with 28 recoveries and 1 death. Euless is reporting 108 cases with 50 recoveries and 0 deaths. Euless ranks third in Tarrant County in the number of positive cases.

The Texas Workforce Commission is reporting that more than 1.9 million Texans have filed for unemployment benefits in the last two months. The unemployment rate in March was 4.7%, an increase from February's 3.5% rate. The Texas Comptroller's office is estimating that April sales tax revenues are down 9.3% from the same period last year. Bedford has not received its April sales tax figures yet, but March 2020 figures were down nearly 11% from last year.

On May 11, 2020, the results of a poll conducted by Nexstar Media and Emerson College were released. As we enter Phase 2 of Governor's Abbott's plan to Open Texas, these results may be telling. According to the results, 59.9% of Texans that responded, were not comfortable with going to a restaurant even with spacing precautions. 68.3% of responders indicated they were also uncomfortable with returning to gyms with spacing precautions. However, 57.8% of Texans feel comfortable going to parks and beaches.