

Greetings City of Dallas Family:

This week Dallas saw new high numbers in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. With these grim milestones, Texas' Governor Abbott paused statewide reopening, closed bars, and reduced capacity at already reopened restaurants, reminding Texans we are still safest at home. As we continue to provide essential services for Dallas residents, it's important we not let down our guard. Diligence in wearing masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene protect not only our fellow employees but most importantly our friends and families – who are the reason we come to work every day.

As the City Council takes its annual July recess, we continue our challenging but essential work. With so many in our community feeling the health and economic consequences of COVID-19, the need for core services is as important as ever. To help stop the spread of COVID-19 we will hold budget townhall meetings virtually this August. Until then, I'm working with my executive leadership team to develop a fiscally responsible budget for 2021 while addressing the priorities of Dallas' residents.

The uncertainty of this time is stressful. In addition to the five Employee Assistance Program (EAP) sessions per incident available to all employees annually, due to COVID-19, an additional five sessions are available between now and September 30 – and they do not need to be COVID-related. For confidential assistance, crisis support and more 24/7 call the EAP toll-free number, 877.622.4327. I urge you to take advantage of this employee benefit.

Opportunities also abound to join with our colleagues and residents in collective action. This week our Office of Equity partnered with Dallas Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation to host the first in a three-part Community Conversation on Racial Equity. The Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs (WCIA) launched a new community resource hub helping all within our city avail themselves of tools to navigate this unprecedented time. Our Youth Commission also kicked off an anti-racism campaign challenging their peers to #MakeADifference.

While there is no single solution to address all the health, economic, and racial challenges our community faces, each of us can contribute meaningfully. Thank you for continuing to be flexible and innovative during these changing times.

Please stay safe and know that you play a vital role in the health, strength, and ultimate recovery of our city. We are moving forward as One Dallas – together!

In the Spirit of Excellence!!

ity Manager