

Y'ALL STAY HOME.

FLATTENING THE CURVE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

INFORMATION FOR FORT WORTH RESTAURANTS

The City of Fort Worth recognizes that many of local small business and restaurants are being severely impacted during these times. To let the city know how your business is being affected by COVID-19, fill out the city's survey at fortworthtexas.gov/covid-19-business-survey.

Code Compliance specialists are also available by phone to answer questions about whether a business is essential/non-essential, and address compliance issues at 817-392-8478.

Will inspections or new certificates of occupancy be required to reopen my business?

Businesses that voluntarily closed down due to COVID-19 will not be required to obtain a new certificate of occupancy or a new health inspection as long as the business and the owner/tenant remain the same. However, if the business' power has been shut off, a new electrical inspection may be required in order to resume.

If you have any questions, the City of Fort Worth would be happy to assist you. You can call your health inspector or 817-392-7255 for more information.

I'm worried about making rent, what can I do?

If you have not done so already, tenants are encouraged to contact their landlords about setting up a payment plan, waiving late fees, etc. This goes for creditors too – call and request to defer payments.

Restaurant owners and operators can also apply for federal funds, including the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program where the loan funds received can be forgiven if used towards rent, payroll (including benefits), utilities, and mortgage interest payments. Talk to your financial advisor for more information.

Locally, the City of Fort Worth and PeopleFund have a microloan program for small businesses in Fort Worth.

For information on small business loans and grants, visit fortworthtexas.gov/COVID-19/business-resources/loans-and-grants.

What are some strategies recommended for restaurants?

- **The safety of you and your employees comes first.** For recommendations on safety and guidelines, visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

- **Add your restaurant to Visit Fort Worth's [Local Curbside & Delivery Guide](#).**

- **Get creative and connect with the community by building a digital following who can provide support.** Use this time to connect creatively with customers over social media and the internet. Focus on building your brand, highlight your chef's stories, host live cooking classes for kids at home - even create "kits" that can be purchased.

- **Check your storeroom.** Do you have toilet paper or other food and supplies that stores might be out of that you can sell to the community?

- **Sell gift cards.** [Kabbage.com](https://kabbage.com) is a helpful online system that allows you to sell gift cards for consumers to use later.

- **Preserve cash as much as possible.** Go through what you have in stock, especially alcohol, and only replenish if necessary.

- **If you are a franchise, check your documents.** You may not have to pay franchise fees during pandemics.

- **Connect with other restaurant owners locally.** Your network is a great resource to help you stay up to date with the latest restaurant news and learn how restaurants are adapting nationally.

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Notable resources

More resources are being added at fortworthtexas.gov/covid-19/business-resources/loans-and-grants as they become available.

- **Bartender Emergency Assistance Fund** is offering emergency assistance to bartenders through the United States Bartender Guild.
- **Fort Worth Food & Wine Foundation Restaurant Employee Relief Fund** allows employees to apply individually, or employers can apply on behalf of all of their employees.
- **Get Shift Done** is a North Texas initiative to employ affected hourly workers in the hospitality industry to perform paid shifts for non-profit organizations and institutions in need during the COVID-19 crisis. It's part of the Get Shift Done for North Texas Fund, which was created at Communities Foundation of Texas.
- **The James Beard Foundation** is launching a fund that will be gathering support from corporate, foundation, and individual donors to provide micro-grants to independent food and beverage businesses in need.
- **MainVest**, a crowdfunding platform, announced its new Main Street Initiative: a \$2,000, zero-interest, 120 day loan for restaurants and other brick and mortars affected by the shutdown.
- **Restaurant Employee Relief Fund**, a program by the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation, provides \$500 grants to restaurant industry workers who have lost wages or employment through COVID-19.
- **Southside CARES (Culinary Arts Retail Entertainment & Service) Fund** offers \$250 grants to Fort Worth's Near Southside businesses, creatives, gig workers and service workers that are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. They're also accepting donations via PayPal at @southsidecares.
- **United Sommeliers Foundation** has launched a relief fund with grants for sommeliers. These grants are determined on a case by case basis, with the goal of helping those applicants with the greatest needs.
- **Yelp & GoFundMe** have partnered up to enable restaurants to raise money directly from their Yelp pages, along with up to \$1 million in total matching grants from the Yelp Foundation. Other restaurant reservation platforms like **OpenTable** and **Resy** also allow for restaurants to add their own donation links to these profiles.

