



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TDLR TAKES ACTION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 THREAT

Agency Approves Temporary Distance Learning, Cancels Events and Meetings

AUSTIN – To protect the health and safety of its licensees, employees and members of the public, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) is taking the following actions:

- Enacting provisions to authorize licensed Barber, Cosmetology, Driver Education and Massage Therapy schools to conduct temporary emergency distance education.
- Canceling all professional and amateur [combative sports events](#) licensed by TDLR and scheduled between now and April 30, including Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and Muay Thai bouts.
- Investigating temporary telework procedures for employees whose work can be done remotely.
- Reminding all TDLR licensees to strictly adhere to all relevant health and sanitation practices and procedures that apply to their professions for the protection of the public and to evaluate telemedicine implications to assist in response to COVID-19. In addition, licensees should implement all relevant COVID-19-specific recommendations and direction from state and local health authorities.
- Canceling these advisory board meetings:
 - Architectural Barriers Advisory Committee scheduled for Monday, March 30;
 - Code Enforcement Officers Advisory Committee scheduled for Thursday, April 9;
 - Licensed Breeders Advisory Committee scheduled for Monday, April 13;
 - Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Advisory Board scheduled for Tuesday, April 14;
 - Massage Therapy Advisory Board scheduled for Monday, April 20;
 - Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers Advisory Board scheduled for Monday, April 27;
 - Midwives Advisory Board scheduled for Wednesday, April 29;
 - Dietitians Advisory Board scheduled for Thursday, April 30.

TDLR is exploring the possibility of holding some meetings via teleconference. Details will be announced at a later date.

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

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TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

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- Canceling in-person [Strategic Planning](#) town hall meetings that had been scheduled in five Texas cities. TDLR is exploring ways to conduct those sessions online.
- Canceling all TDLR employee non-essential travel to conferences.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has detailed and up-to-date information about the impact of COVID-19 in Texas and the State's response and efforts: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

The CDC continues to provide updates about COVID-19 and its impact in the U.S. and beyond: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

You can find the latest TDLR information related to the COVID-19 outbreak here: <http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/covid19>.

"We take seriously our responsibility to protect the health and safety of our employees, our licensees and the members of our communities with compromised immunity. We will do our part to help make sure our state's healthcare system is not overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases," said Brian E. Francis, TDLR executive director.

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

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