

A COVID-19 Update from FORT BEND SENIORS MEALS ON WHEELS



July 15, 2020

At Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, there is nothing more important than the health and safety of the seniors we serve and that of our dedicated volunteers and hard-working staff. At a time when we are seeing a dramatic increase in COVID-19 rates across our community, we are committed to ensuring you receive the support you need all while maintaining emergency safety protocols.

How are we keeping you, our volunteers, and staff safe?

Since our community first issued its stay-home order, we've implemented new procedures and continue to refine our operations based on advice from the local health department and Centers for Disease Control. These include:

1. Adapted delivery methods to reduce or eliminate potential exposure to you, including:
 - Weekly delivery of 7 meals, rather than daily deliveries
 - Use of hand sanitizer, mask, & gloves with each delivery
 - Maintaining at least 6-foot distance between senior and delivery driver when possible
 - Assessments and Re-assessments conducted by phone
2. Weekly phone calls to you from volunteers to ensure you are doing okay & your needs are met
3. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of distribution kitchen and office space
4. Limiting the number of staff and requiring the use of masks in the FBS office



Has anyone with FBS been diagnosed with COVID-19?

Since the outbreak began in our area, just one of FBS' volunteers and one of FBS' employees tested positive for COVID-19. Both individuals self-quarantined while awaiting their test results, and any individuals potentially exposed to the infected individuals through close contact (CDC defined as within 6-feet for a prolonged period of time) have been notified. The volunteer has since recovered, and the employee has continued to social distance at home with minimal symptoms. The safety procedures described above have been key to ensuring that none of the seniors we serve have been exposed to the virus.

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What does the future of FBS' programs look like?

While we continue to use these safety precautions, we are also planning for when we can resume daily meal deliveries—and we will keep you updated regarding our timeline. The earliest we anticipate returning to daily, hot home-delivered meals is October 1st, though this will entirely depend on the virus' progression in our region. We continue to seek out alternative meal options to be able to offer you a variety of delicious and nutritious meal choices, but at times our selection has been limited.

With regards to our senior center programs, at this time we do not have a scheduled reopening date. We will be reaching out to former senior center participants soon to gauge your comfort level with returning to in-person programming; we are also still determining what safety precautions would need to be in place at each center to ensure the complete safety of participants, staff, and volunteers.

If you have any questions about our current efforts or about the services you receive, please contact us at 281-633-7049. We also encourage you to visit a webpage we've put together just for you – bit.ly/fbsconnect – that includes helpful information and stay-home resources, including virtual fitness sessions and tours. Thank you so very much for trusting us with your health and well-being. We are honored to be able to continue serving you through these uncertain times.

Stay safe,



Robert E. Hebert, Executive Director

