



March 13, 2020

As communities across the Big Bend region are impacted by COVID-19, and national, state, and regional responses to the outbreak roll out, Second Harvest of the Big Bend stands ready to feed those in need.

The health and safety of the community is our top priority. We are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state and local best practices. Second Harvest is taking the following steps to maintain safe food storage and distribution:

- We have asked all employees and volunteers to remain home if they are feeling ill.
- We have implemented twice-daily cleaning and sanitation of our high-traffic areas, including food sorting areas for volunteers and staff, door handles, bathrooms, and other areas.
- We have provided additional sanitation stations throughout the warehouse, including new hand sanitizer dispensers, a handwashing station inside the warehouse and a convenient hand sanitizing station supplied with gloves and hand sanitizer at the entrance to our warehouse.
- We have posted reminders of proper handwashing techniques and Covid-19 best safety practices throughout our facility.

Timely communication is crucial. As the food bank prepares to meet nutritional needs, we are:

- Communicating with local, county, and state government agencies and other key leaders preparing to meet the needs of the communities we serve.
- Communicating with all partner agencies and food bank program sites to monitor their respective needs.
- Communicating with all volunteers to share the best safety practices and updates regarding volunteer service opportunities and protocols.

Second Harvest also is finalizing plans for sustaining food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 poses a threat to already vulnerable food insecure populations. Further, families who have historically been able to meet all of their nutritional needs may find themselves food insecure for the first time. You can help ensure our neighbors in need can make it through these challenging times.

Many seniors in the Big Bend region may need additional food and supplies. At-risk children may need nutritious meals. In preparation for the impacts of Coronavirus, we plan to increase our food distribution to individuals and families in need.

Our goal over the next 30 days is to pre-pack more than 400,000 meals for distribution.

### **How can you help?**

- **Monetary donations:** While all support is appreciated, financial support helps us use your gift to meet the greatest needs. Every \$1 donated to the Food Bank provides 4 meals. A donation of any amount helps us continue to respond. Please visit [www.fightinghunger.org/covid19](http://www.fightinghunger.org/covid19)
- **Food:** As always, we welcome donations of non-perishable food items from Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at our warehouse, located at 4446 Entrepot Boulevard.
- **Volunteer:** Please volunteer to help us pre-pack boxes during the next few weeks. For dates and times and to register for volunteer shifts, you may visit [www.fightinghunger.org/covid19](http://www.fightinghunger.org/covid19)

We sincerely appreciate your commitment to Second Harvest food bank, and the communities we serve, and we will continue to share regular updates with you as we move forward together through this evolving situation. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments, and thank you for your ongoing support of the food bank and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Monique Ellsworth, CEO

Second Harvest of the Big Bend