



**SARAH ECKHARDT**  
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 14

**For Immediate Release**  
January 19, 2021

**Pandemic Protocols for Senate District 14 Capitol and District Offices**

Senate District 14 exists to serve and be accessible to constituents and to stakeholders in the myriad policy debates that occur in the Texas Capitol. That said, it is the policy of SD-14 to acknowledge the public health reality of this global pandemic. Some adjustments to standard operating procedures are necessary to protect the health of the residents of SD-14, Capitol staff, external stakeholders, and the employees of the Capitol and District offices. It is further acknowledged that these scientifically supported protocols will unfortunately restrict some of our preferred accessibility. We will take all steps to be available to the public in any way that is reasonable and prudent. The office will continue to refine these protocols based on how the public health landscape evolves.

**Office Hours and Access:**

The Capitol Office is closed to the public until further notice - there will be no drop ins by the public, lobbyists, and/or constituents. A sign has been posted that indicates how the public can engage with the office.

The Travis County District Office is closed to the public until further notice.

The Bastrop County District Office is closed to the public until further notice.

**How to Access Senator Eckhardt and Senate District 14 Staff:**

- Contact the Capitol Office at (512) 463-0114 or email [sarah.eckhardt@senate.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.eckhardt@senate.texas.gov) to schedule a virtual meeting with the Senator

or staff.

- Coffee Jolts will be held virtually every Thursday morning for the first two months of 2021 and will be open to the public to facilitate constituent access to the Senator and staff. More information can be found on Senator Eckhardt's [Facebook page](#).
- Policy Pints will be held virtually twice monthly and will be open to the public to facilitate constituent access to the Senator and staff and discuss specific policies in depth. More information can be found on Senator Eckhardt's [Facebook page](#).

### **Staff Safety Measures:**

To ensure the safety of staff working in the Capitol office, the following safety protocols must be followed:

- Staff of Senate District 14 will be required to get tested twice each week.
- Office sanitation and safety measures must be followed, including wearing a mask at all times while in the Capitol, limiting the number of staff in the office at once, sanitizing hands and high-touch surfaces, and maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others.
- Staff will be prohibited from working from the Capitol if they:
  - Have close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19, or,
  - Exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they may not return to work until:
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or a positive test is received;
  - Fever has been resolved without the use of fever-reducing drugs, AND the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, and,
  - The employee has been tested after fulfilling the first three criteria and has tested negative.

###