

Office of the County Judge
and
Coryell County Emergency Management

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2020 – Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas -

Coryell County Commissioners met on Monday, March 23, 2020 via teleconference due to the threat of COVID-19 with County Judge Roger Miller presiding. Commissioners conducted County business, including approving modified work duties and locations for County employees during the continued threat. County services continue throughout all departments while officials asked the public to modify the means used to interact with employees to include distancing via email or telephone when possible. The County and District Courts continue to operate according to the Office of Court Administrations guidelines. Extra efforts are underway to ensure a clean, sanitary County Jail.

While McLennan County reported 17 cases and Bell County reported 10 cases, there were currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 Coronavirus reported in Coryell County. Coryell Memorial Hospital reported that current tests have a 24-hours or less turnaround.

Commissioners revised the Declaration of Local Disaster Related to Coronavirus to include:

1. All citizens of Coryell County, and those passing through the territorial boundaries of Coryell County, shall comply with executive order GA 08 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, effective 11:59 pm on March 20, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 pm on April 3, 2020;
 - a. Every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people.
 - b. People shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-through, pick up, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of the executive order.
 - c. People shall not visit nursing homes retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
 - d. Schools shall temporarily close.
2. Convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, and similar establishments shall cease providing self-serve food items, except when food items are individually wrapped or packaged.
2. Every business or service provider shall take extraordinary measures to clean and sanitize their facilities in order to protect the health and safety of their employees and clients. In-home and on-site service providers such as satellite TV installers, electricians, plumbers, and repair persons shall take extraordinary measures to prevent exposure to and spread of COVID-19.
2. All County Government functions will remain open and accessible to the public; however, each Elected or Appointed Official or Department Head may limit or restrict direct contact with the general public and may impose reasonable control measures to ensure the health and safety of County employees while serving the public.
 - This order does not extend to law-enforcement activities or emergency responses within the jurisdiction of Coryell County.
 - All Coryell County employees must report for work as required by their supervisors.
 - Effective immediately and through the duration of this order all Coryell County employees shall cease any work-related travel.

A violation of this Disaster Declaration is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed \$500 or as authorized by Government Code §418.173 and adopted in the County's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

Officials encouraged residents to stop panicked purchasing. Local purchasing currently exceeds the rate of delivery; however, local grocers indicate no significant interruptions in supply. County Judge Roger Miller encouraged citizens to follow Federal and State guidelines by staying at home and provided clarification that the “10 or less” applies to all gatherings not exempted in the Governor’s directives.”

Judge Miller encouraged residents that the response to the threat will be a “marathon, not a sprint” and that, “beginning immediately, the Coryell County Courthouse lights would remain lit to remind citizens all over the County that, no matter where you are, we will get through this,” closing his remarks with, “There is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Commissioners also paid bills and approved the donation of three new Bail Out remote door opening and temperature monitoring/alerting systems from Premier Canine for the canine handlers' vehicles.

More information about Coryell County services, including Emergency Management and County Disaster Declarations, may be found at <https://www.coryellcounty.org>.