

Office of the County Judge
and
Coryell County Emergency Management

For Immediate Release
April 8, 2020 – Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas -

Coryell County Judge Roger Miller joined the ranks of other area County Judges and issued a County wide Stay Home, Stop the Spread Order for Coryell County residents. His action comes on the heels of a Disaster Declaration Order issued by Gatesville Mayor Gary Chumley just one day before. Judge Miller's Order closely mimics the guidance that was established last week in Governor Abbot's Executive Order GA-14.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are increasing in Coryell County and throughout the region and State. Currently, Coryell County is reporting 13 positive tests for the virus, with new cases having been reported for the past four consecutive days. "It was never a question of would the virus come to our County, it was only a matter of when it appeared. Well, it's here and we need to stop the spread," said Judge Miller.

The Judge's Stay Home, Stop the Spread Order limits out of county travel for current Coryell County residents. It also prohibits nonresidents from entering Coryell County, except those people working in the county under CISA's list of Essential Critical Infrastructure services, and those individuals who are seeking emergency medical treatment. "The virus doesn't spread on its own, people spread it. It's critical that we stop cross contaminating each other. I want our residents to be as safe as possible and I want to extend that same sentiment to our surrounding counties," Miller said.

With multiple confirmed cases being reported from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Gatesville, there seems to be a growing concern with the prison system. BoB Harrell, Emergency Management Coordinator for Coryell County, said, "We have an increased number of infections we can attribute to TDCJ. There is a direct correlation between the inmate infections and the local increase." The County has been in contact with State administrators for TDCJ to discuss several issues and concerns. As reported this morning, the Murray Unit in Gatesville is currently on inmate lockdown as a control measure to stop the virus from spreading.

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