



## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**MARCH 25, 2020 UPDATE**

**The situation with the COVID-19 virus in the United States, Texas, and Central Texas continues to have little good news.**

**Last night, Coryell County reported its first confirmed case – a 55-year old female who resides in Copperas Cove and worked in Belton. She is currently in self-isolation at her residence.**

**McLennan County is now reporting 28 cases (+4) with three hospitalized and Bell County 19 cases (+1) since yesterday. In only four hours this afternoon, 112 more U.S. residents died of COVID-19, and the number of confirmed cases in Texas (according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center) rose 155 (to 1,186) and there were two more deaths – which stands at 15 this evening.**

**I will reiterate: if you feel ill, stay home. If you are experiencing high fever, coughing, difficulty breathing, etc. call the Coryell Health Respiratory Hotline at [\(254\)248-6263](tel:2542486263), or your primary care provider – and follow their instructions. Wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, and keep a safe social distance from others. If you don't have to travel to adjoining counties with demonstrated community spread for an "essential" purpose – don't.**

**For those who are diligently doing their best to follow Governor Abbott's Executive Order to prevent this terrible curse from spreading, you have my sincere thanks. The inconvenience of distancing, avoiding social gatherings of 10 or more people, some empty shelves at the grocery stores, etc. pale in comparison to contracting COVID-19. Be smart – if you are prohibited from dining in a restaurant, I would recommend that you don't consume your food from a restaurant on the premises. You never know who sat at that picnic table before you did.**

**If you ask me "What is going to keep you up tonight?" I would tell you that my greatest concern is people – including your friends and relatives – from Texas counties that are hard hit the most right now, will try to "escape" to Gatesville, where there are no reported confirmed cases. In doing so, if they have the virus, whether they are showing symptoms or not, they exponentially increase the risk of passing the virus on to you and our community. You can show no signs of illness for up to 14 days and be carrying the virus.**

**I encourage the small businesses in Gatesville to check out the City Of Gatesville Support for Local Businesses Facebook page to submit questions and use our resources and connections to try to find answers to share with the group.**

**The City of Gatesville continues to provide essential services to our residents, and will do so regardless of what happens. We are in close contact with the Coryell County Commissioners Court and will update you with any new developments as they occur.**

**We are carefully monitoring the community spread in the neighboring counties – I encourage everyone to stay safe and stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary for you to go out.**

**Bill Parry  
City Manager**