

March 22, 2020

Atascosa County reports first cases of COVID-19

Atascosa County is reporting two cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in county residents. These are the first cases reported in the county. The individuals are experiencing mild symptoms and isolating at home.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting Atascosa County in identifying any close contacts of the patient while sick, so they can be isolated and monitored for symptoms and quickly tested, if needed.

The County Judge, Robert L. Hurley is in contact with the local medical authority for infectious diseases and we are taking every necessary precaution. He says, "Rest assured we are monitoring the local situation on a 24/7 basis. We are in constant contact with the CDC office and the State Health Department Service. Please follow guidelines and cautions for avoiding contact following the Governor's order

Continue to check our website at <http://www.atascosacounty.texas.gov> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/countyofatascosa> for updates. We are also opening up a COVID-19 information hotline starting Monday, March 23, 2020 and that phone number will be posted on the pages above.

It is possible that individuals who visited the following location at the dates and times listed may have been exposed:

- Walgreens Pharmacy, 2070 W Oaklawn Rd, Pleasanton, TX 78064
 - Tuesday, March 17th, 2-4pm
 - Friday, March 20th, 2-4pm

The risk of contracting the virus from these exposures is low and isolation is not required for anyone that does not have symptoms. If you believe you have been exposed, monitor yourself closely for symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath for 14 days after

the exposure. If you experience any of these symptoms and do not need urgent medical attention, isolate at home and contact your healthcare provider.

There are things everyone can do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Minimizing exposure is especially important for people who are 65 or older or who have an underlying health condition like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or cancer. People in those groups have a higher risk of developing severe disease if they do get COVID-19, and the safest thing for them during an outbreak will be to stay home as much as possible and minimize close contact with other people. To get ready, they should talk to their doctor about getting additional prescription medications and have enough household items and groceries on hand to stay home as needed.

The public can find up-to-date coronavirus information at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus. If you have questions about COVID-19, call 2-1-1.