

Today, Atascosa County was informed by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) of the county's first COVID-19 related death.

Not much has been made known about the deceased except that he was elderly.

County Judge Robert Hurley would like to remind area citizens that while the health risk from this coronavirus to the public remains low, precautions should be taken. Additionally while COVID-19 has a high transmission rate, it has a low mortality rate. "The risk of transmission is lowered when individuals are vigilant about following the CDC's recommendations on handwashing and social distancing. Wearing a face mask also lowers the risk of contamination," he stated.

From the data we have, of those who have tested positive for COVID-19, approximately 80 percent do not exhibit symptoms that would require hospitalization.

"Our Emergency Management Coordinator and EMS Director have been working diligently to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and make sure our emergency response teams are prepared with PPE and supplies to remain safe."

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends who have lost their loved one due to this abhorrent disease," expressed Hurley.

Remember these steps you can take to protect your health and the health of those around you:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer often.
- Wear a face mask anytime you are in public.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Maintain a safe social distance of 6 feet from other people.
- If you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.

Follow the directions of your local health authority.

For more information about COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019), please visit the Atascosa County website or call our information line at 830-580-2606 during regular business hours.