



March 16, 2020

With rising concerns regarding the COVID-19, County Judge Robert Hurley would like to give the citizens of Atascosa County an update on what the county is doing to curb concerns and contamination risks.

The County Emergency Management Coordinator, David Prasifka, has been diligently staying abreast of the latest news and information available regarding this novel virus. Local leaders in the county, area schools, cities, along with Methodist Healthcare South Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Region 8 and various health entities have met to discuss preparedness and protocols for potential positive COVID-19 tests.

There have been no cases of the coronavirus Atascosa County and county offices remain open. Courts have been advised to modify their proceedings at this time. We will assess this on a day to day basis.

As we wait for further updates from state officials all county departments are being encouraged to maintain employee health and keep anxieties at bay. The courthouses have free standing hand sanitizer stations; restrooms are supplied with hand soap, hand sanitizer and automatic paper towel dispensers. Offices have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Custodians are being vigilant by disinfecting doorknobs, elevator buttons and stair rails. From the jail, to the tax annex office, to the juvenile detention center, our focus, as always, is to safely serve the citizens of Atascosa County while preserving the physical and mental health of our valuable employees.

For county employees with TAC Health Insurance the plan is temporarily waiving the cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing (no member out-of-pocket costs), including: No copay for office visit, no copay or deductible for diagnostic and laboratory services specifically for diagnosing COVID-19.

Judge Hurley and the Emergency Management Coordinator are currently working to establish immediate and free testing for all of the First Responders in the County.

For concerns and questions regarding coronavirus, can call (210)207-5779.

Remember, the Department of State Health Services recommends these everyday actions to help prevent the spread of any respiratory virus, including COVID-19:

- * Wash hands often, for 20 seconds, and encourage others to do the same.
- * If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- * Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- * Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- * Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- * Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

This information may change. Updates will be sent as time permits.