



March 17, 2020

Atascosa County Judge Robert Hurley is once again giving the citizens of Atascosa County a quick update on the goings on around the county to curb concerns and contamination risks regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local hospital and Emergency Management Coordinator, David Prasifka remain in contact. There have been no reported cases in the county, nor has the hospital seen any suspected cases.

Local grocery and retail stores are doing their best to keep essentials stocked. Area schools have extended their Spring Breaks. The Poteet Strawberry Festival announced their cancellation yesterday. Mayor Williams with the City of Jourdanton signed a "Declaration of Public Health Emergency" order and it appears that Poteet and Pleasanton will be following suit.

SPREAD FACTS, NOT FEAR

What is a "novel" virus?

A novel virus is a new virus, one not seen before

Is coronavirus a novel virus?

Coronavirus is not new, however COVID-19 is a new strain never seen before. While that is scary, new strains of the coronavirus have reared their ugly heads before. Remember SARS and MERS? They are a strain of coronavirus.

What are the symptoms?

Fever

Cough

Shortness of breath

People with other medical issues, the elderly and young children are at a higher risk than the general population. The odds of recovery are very good, but, like with other viral infections such as the flu, developing pneumonia can be detrimental.

What is a pandemic?

A pandemic refers to a geographic spread. This is NOT the same as an epidemic.

Why does everyone seem to be panicking?

This is a new strain of coronavirus and it will take some time to fully understand. And, as with all viruses, antibiotic does not work.

Stats please?

U.S. COVID-19 in the U.S. total cases as of today are 4,464 with total deaths being 78.

To put that in perspective, remember the CDC estimates that 12,000 and 61,000 deaths annually since 2010 can be blamed on the flu. Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the flu kills 290,000 to 650,000 people per year (source health.com).

What should do?

Focus on the positive. The risks are low, but you want to do your part to make sure that America, Atascosa County and your friends and family are healthy and safe.

So, as much as possible:

Work from home

Call a medical provider if you experience symptoms

Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people

Practice good hygiene

Wash hands thoroughly

Use hand sanitizer frequently

Avoid unnecessary travel

Sneeze and cough in a tissue, or the corner of your elbow

Disinfect surfaces frequently

Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

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