



DARYL L. FOWLER
County Judge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports new case of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting a new case of COVID-19 in a county resident. This case brings the number of known cases to seven. This case is attributable to community spread. State health officials will not confirm the age or gender of the patient.

Investigators believe two Yoakum businesses were visited by the patient while symptoms were present. The patient visited the Do-It Center at 408 West Grand and Morrow's Hardware Store at 409 Lott Street on March 31. 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.

Two people are now hospitalized with the virus. One of the known cases of the virus has recovered. No deaths attributable to COVID-19 have been reported in DeWitt County.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has issued Executive Orders during this period of emergency. In EO No. 14 he directs citizens to "stay home" and "stay put" in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Under the order of the governor, persons engaging in non-essential social gatherings, business operations, and other non-essential activities are subject to a fine up to \$1000 and/or 180 days in jail.

County Judge Daryl Fowler implores county residents to heed the order of the governor and the advice of the medical experts who strongly encourage citizens to keep a six-foot distance between each other to avoid spreading the virus. "For Heaven's sake, please stay home except for essential needs or essential work... and keep the children at home, too," pleads Judge Fowler.

The judge and emergency management personnel are communicating daily with state officials and regional leaders about the spread of the COVID-19 virus and referring callers to the

official websites of the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services. These websites are great resources for the general public according to Judge Fowler.

Individuals may be exposed to COVID-19 and be infectious even when no symptoms are present. If an individual knows they have been exposed, they should not go to work. If a fever and cough are present, they should isolate themselves from others at home and monitor symptoms.

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 the Texas Department for State Health Services dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus and the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and DeWitt County at www.co.dewitt.tx.us and on the Facebook Page of DeWitt County Office of Emergency Management.

The governor's office is also providing information and links to the Executive Orders through the website www.governor.texas.gov

-30-

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