



DARYL L. FOWLER
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03/18/2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports first case of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting the first case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a county resident. The person is female between the age of 60 and 70. The investigation as to the probable origin of exposure is currently ongoing. The person is currently experiencing mild symptoms and isolating at home.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting DeWitt County public health officials and hospital personnel in identifying any close contacts of the patient while she was traveling or before symptoms were evident, so they can be isolated and monitored for symptoms and quickly tested, if needed. Health officials confirm this is not a community-acquired case. Local health official implemented infectious disease protocols when the patient presented and while treating the patient.

DeWitt County judge Daryl Fowler is communicating with other leaders in the county, including municipal leaders, hospital and school officials, the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Department of State Health Services in order to coordinate efforts and identify resources that can be mobilized if a need arises that local resources may not be sufficient to meet.

“More information will be provided for public use and consumption as this situation develops. We want our citizens to make use of official public media outlets for timely and correct information. So, please bookmark the websites for the county and emergency management and like the DeWitt County Emergency Management Facebook page,” says Judge Fowler.

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 and the Centers for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and DeWitt County at www.co.dewitt.tx.us and Cuero Regional Hospital at www.cuerohospital.org

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