



DARYL L. FOWLER
County Judge

307 N. Gonzales Street
Cuero, Texas 77954
Ph.: 361-275-0916
Fax: 361-275-0919
daryl.fowler@co.DeWitt.tx.us
blair.duran@co.DeWitt.tx.us

03/31/2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports fourth case of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting its fourth case of COVID-19 in a county resident. An investigation into this case by state health officials indicates this is a travel-related case. The person is a resident of Cuero. State health officials will not confirm the age or gender of the patient.

DeWitt County Judge Daryl Fowler is communicating with other state officials and leaders across the state about the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Department of State Health Services are coordinating efforts and identify resources that can be mobilized if a need arises that local resources may not be sufficient to meet. There are no unmet needs at this time.

Fighting the spread of this virus is the duty of everyone in our community according to Judge Fowler. Health experts are learning that an individual can have COVID-19 and be asymptomatic for several days before symptoms appear.

Judge Fowler implores county residents to heed the advice of the medical experts. "If you are feeling bad, stay home, and do not interact with other individuals if at all possible," says Fowler. "Be mindful that others may be asymptomatic and expose you to the virus," he adds, "It works both ways."

If travel can be avoided, the opportunity for travel-related exposure declines. When it comes to community spread of the virus there are things everyone can do to help prevent the person-to-person transmission 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.
- Maintain a safe distance between individuals in business and social settings.

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.

County officials utilize public media outlets for publishing up-to-date and accurate information. Please bookmark the websites for the county and emergency management and like the DeWitt County Emergency Management Facebook page.

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

The governor's office is also providing information through the website www.governor.texas.gov

-30-

News Media Contact:

Cyndi Smith
Emergency Management Coordinator
361-275-0878

Daryl Fowler
DeWitt County Judge
361-275-0916