



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

03/24/2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports second case of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting its second case of COVID-19 in a county resident. The person is a resident of Yoakum. The investigation as to the probable origin of exposure is currently ongoing. State health officials will not confirm the age, gender, or any other identifying information. Neither will state health officials confirm whether this case is travel related or from personal contact.

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.

“I wish I had more information to distribute, but it appears the public reaction to the first victim was hostile according to sources close to the situation, so state health officials are very cautious in releasing localized details,” says Judge Fowler.

“The virus is no respecter of persons, so potential for new cases developing in our community due to human interaction is present. Therefore, it is critically important that we exhibit compassion for one another and demonstrate community spirit in the days ahead,” Fowler adds.

More information will be provided for public use and consumption as this situation develops. County officials want our citizens to utilize our public media outlets for 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.

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.
- 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.

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