



DARYL L. FOWLER
County Judge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeWitt County reports two new cases of COVID-19

DeWitt County is reporting two new cases of COVID-19 in county residents. These cases bring the number of known cases to six. One person is a resident of Yorktown and is believed to have acquired the virus through community spread. The other person is a resident of Cuero and has acquired the virus through contact with a household member. State health officials will not confirm the age or gender of the patients.

One of the six known cases of the virus has recovered. No deaths attributable to COVID-19 have been reported in DeWitt County.

County Judge Daryl Fowler implores county residents to heed the advice of the medical experts who strongly encourage citizens to keep a six-foot distance between each other to avoid spreading the virus. "In order to stay ahead of this pandemic it is important for everyone to limit our exposure to others. We can choose to ignore the best practices advocated by the medical experts, but we do so at our own risk. Therefore, be mindful that others may not have symptoms when they expose you to the virus," Judge Fowler says.

Judge Fowler is 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.

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.

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.

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

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