



DAVID R. KREBS

County Judge
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Today the World Health Organization declared 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. While there are currently no known cases of the COVID-19 in San Patricio County, the County's Public Health Department is monitoring the outbreak closely and working with state and national health authorities on the best ways to contain the spread of the virus.

Our Public Health Department relies on the expert advice and protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The County's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Department is working around the clock to keep residents of San Patricio County safe.

Individuals identified by state authorities or local healthcare providers who recently returned from (or had contact with someone who recently visited) an area where the virus outbreak occurred are actively being monitored by healthcare providers. These individuals are required to stay home, monitor their temperature, and then report it back to public health officials.

County health officials urge residents to follow the advice and guidelines found at the CDC or DSHS websites below. These websites post updated information daily and are a great source of information including what travelers need to know, how the virus spreads, its symptoms, and how to protect yourself.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

The best step our community can take as a whole is to practice illness prevention:

- If you feel sick, stay home
- Wash your hands
- Cover a cough or sneeze
- If you are over 70 or have a chronic disease, avoid large gatherings.

You have San Patricio County's promise to continue its efforts and preparation for COVID-19, and we ask that our community do their part to help keep everyone healthy and safe.

David R. Krebs
County Judge
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