

April 1, 2020

Gillespie County reports first case of COVID-19

Gillespie County is reporting one case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a county resident. This is the first case reported in the county. This case is associated with travel outside of Gillespie County but within Texas. The individual is experiencing mild symptoms and isolating at home.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting Gillespie County in identifying any close contacts of the patient while sick, so they can be isolated and monitored for symptoms and quickly tested, if needed.

Gillespie County Judge Mark Stroehler emphasized that this case resulted from travel outside Gillespie County. He stressed the need to voluntarily travel only for essential services and to maintain social distancing – minimum of 6 feet from others.

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.