June 19, 2020

Gillespie County reports 15th case of COVID-19

Gillespie County is reporting the 15th case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a county resident. The individual is currently experiencing mild symptoms and is isolating at home. It has been determined that this case is associated with community spread of the virus.

Given the increases in community spread throughout the United States, all individuals are at some risk of exposure to COVID-19. Everyone should monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19, practice social distancing, wear masks or facial coverings, and stay home if they become sick, except to seek necessary medical care. The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting Gillespie County in identifying any close contacts of the patient, so they can be isolated, monitored for symptoms, and quickly tested, if needed.

County Judge Mark Stroehler urges citizens “if you feel ill or sick stay home, isolate yourself, don’t expose your family or your community. If you feel you have been exposed to someone with the COVID-19 virus, call your doctor and get tested.”

The City of Fredericksburg will host a drive through Covid-19 test site on June 23, 2020. To be tested, you must register online at https://txcovidtest.org/ or by calling (512)883-2400. Testing will not be provided without an appointment. Those wishing to be tested can sign up for an appointment 48 hours prior to the testing day.

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](dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus). If you have questions about COVID-19, call 2-1-1 option 6.