

COUNTY OF GILLESPIE

COMMISSIONERS:

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June 18, 2020

Gillespie County reports 4 new cases of COVID-19

Gillespie County is reporting 4 new cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in county residents. The individuals are currently isolating at home. It has been determined that all four cases are associated with community spread of the virus. These are case #'s 11 - 14 in the county.

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 (DSHS) 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 is reminding all residents that the recent increase in confirmed cases is probably a result of the increase in tourism and business activity. "With the additional guests in town and the increase in businesses open to support them, it's important for everyone to follow the guidelines issued by the state of Texas. Please continue to practice social distancing and wear masks whenever possible".

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. If you have questions about COVID-19, call 2-1-1 option 6.