

COUNTY OF GILLESPIE

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June 22, 2020

Gillespie County reports 16th and 17th cases of COVID-19

Gillespie County is reporting the 16th and 17th case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a county resident. The affected individuals are isolating at home. It has been determined that these cases are associated with family 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 a mask or facial covering, 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.

Gillespie County Judge Mark Stroehler wants to remind residents that social distancing and the practice of established guidelines is vital in helping to contain the virus and protecting each other during the pandemic. “If we don’t continue to observe the guidelines and policies established by Governor Abbott we may be setting ourselves up for dramatic increases in the number of cases locally. The best way to protect ourselves and our families is to follow these guidelines”.

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.