



Tom Caldwell

Wilson County Attorney

1420 THIRD STREET ~ FLORESVILLE, TEXAS 78114 ~ (830) 393-7305; FAX (830) 393-7358

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WILSON COUNTY REPORTS FIRST CASE OF COVID-19

Wilson County is reporting its first case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a county resident that is currently hospitalized. It has been determined that the case is associated with travel within the United States but outside of Texas. It is not considered a community-spread case.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting Wilson County in identifying any close contacts the patient may have had prior to their testing positive, so they can be isolated and monitored for symptoms and quickly tested, if needed.

County Judge Richard J. Jackson has issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency which outlines best practices for all county residents and also imposes certain requirements on our residents and businesses to help stop the spread of this virus. This Declaration can be found at Wilson County's webpage: <http://www.co.wilson.tx.us/page/wilson.home>. We ask that the public take these recommendations seriously. **We all can do our part to mitigate this virus.**

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath. If you experience these symptoms and believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider.

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.

The County of Wilson and our municipal partners have worked since the beginning of this crisis to stay ahead of a very fast-moving and dynamic situation. The concern identified with COVID-19 lies less in how dangerous it is, but in how quickly it has spread. Given Wilson County's proximity to a major metropolitan area, your community leaders expected at some point for a case to be identified in our community. We are prepared for it. Our community has been preparing for it. Please urge calm to your families and **spread only facts, not fear**. I assure you that Wilson County remains committed to protecting all of our residents and will work ceaselessly to ensure that you and your families remain safe and secure.

(News Media Contact: Tom Caldwell, Wilson County Attorney, 830-393-7305)