



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: James Fisher, City Manager

PHONE: 979-337-7390

DATE: March 13, 2020

City of Brenham Responds to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Developments

The City of Brenham is, more than ever, committed to providing a safe and secure environment for employees and residents and continues to proactively take measures to mitigate concerns over Coronavirus (COVID-19).

“Keeping each resident and our staff safe is our top priority. Every day new and updated information is released. We recommend residents stay focused on the facts by staying informed from credible agencies, like the CDC. We thank everyone for their continued efforts in following the prescribed practices that will help keep this virus under control,” says Mayor Tate.

City events are being discussed and rescheduled on a case-by-case basis. Information regarding upcoming events will be released on the City of Brenham website at cityofbrenham.org and on all City-sponsored social media pages. If you have questions regarding specific events, please check websites regularly or call City Hall at 979-337-7200.

City Manager, James Fisher states, “Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected around the world by the coronavirus. The City does not take this threat lightly and is doing its part to stop the spread of the virus. We appreciate the patience and understanding of residents as we navigate these circumstances together as a community.”

In these times of uncertainty, the City remains focused on the facts. As the situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve, we are doing everything we can to ensure the threat level continues to be labeled as *low* in Brenham and Washington County. We are closely monitoring updates from many sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with guidance from local and US government health agencies.

The City has implemented a Communication Campaign and Preparedness Plan to keep employees and City residents informed. The Communication Campaign: Focusing on the Facts, is designed to keep City of Brenham residents up to date with the latest information and prevention methods, and the Preparedness Plan, is designed to help prevent the spread of the virus to the best of our abilities within City Hall and other City-run facilities. Among other things, our plan includes:

- Daily and on-going sanitation of our lobby and other common areas
- Available hand sanitizer stations located throughout facilities

- Employees following best practice infection prevention methods such as hand washing for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer more often

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, we are following recommended protocol and encourage residents to continue practicing these as well:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with the bend of your elbow or a tissue
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Be mindful of others if you meet the following high-risk criteria:
 - Fever, cough, or shortness of breath
 - Exposed to someone diagnosed with coronavirus
 - Recently traveled to a high-risk country: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea. This country list is updated regularly by the CDC and can be reviewed and monitored on their website at www.cdc.gov

Agencies are stressing the importance of approaching this in a common sense, informed, and calm manner. We recognize the impact to daily life, our children's schools, our local businesses, and to our local, state, and national economy. With so many unknowns at this time, we join efforts in doing what we know to do: work to prevent the spread of the virus, stay informed, and support each other as Brenham has always done.

Residents are encouraged to contact the City with any questions or concerns at 979-337-7200.

Word Count: 593

Attachments: Risk graphic courtesy of ABC13

Links: cityofbrenham.org

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