



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2020

James Fisher, City Manager	Dr. Walter Jackson	Judge John Durrenberger
City Manager	Superintendent of Schools	Washington County Judge
979-337-7390	979-277-3700	979-277-6220

City of Brenham, Washington County, and Brenham Independent School District (BISD) Make Public Announcement Regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As the global effect of Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, the City of Brenham, Washington County officials, and BISD are firmly committed to the health and safety of our community. We are closely monitoring the changing situation and complying with all public health guidance.

There is one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Brazos County, that of a young adult who recently traveled abroad. If you have recently traveled in such a manner, we are asking that you follow the prescribed guidelines for a 14-day self-quarantine. We also ask that you follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing.

We are a strong community with deep roots of caring for each other. This has never been more important than now. It is a time to reassure and encourage each other as we experience an uncharted journey. *We do know that the best way to prevent this illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.*

Based on this knowledge and recent developments and updates, the City and County have cancelled, or rescheduled public meetings and events of 10 or more people. Brenham ISD has suspended normal school operations through Friday, April 3. Food service will continue for pick up at Alton Elementary.

Take Steps to Protect Yourself and Others

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

- **Limiting person-to-person contact** (including group events, slumber parties, going to the movies, pick-up sporting games, etc.). The purpose of the stay-at-home policy is to minimize contact with others to minimize spread of the virus.
- **Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds** especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Cleaning and sanitizing** high traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **Avoid close contact with people we are sick.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Stay home when you are sick unless you need immediate medical attention.**
- **Cover your cough and/or sneeze** with the bend of your elbow or a tissue.
- **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 [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Take Steps to Help Others

As a community, we encourage you to continue to care for neighbors, shut-ins, or those that may live alone. A simple phone call or sharing a meal by leaving it at their front door can go a long way in providing comfort at a time when they may be fearful.

Take Steps to Support Local Businesses

Many local businesses and restaurants are offering curbside pick up or delivery. This is a critical time to show our support and keep our local economy strong by supporting each other.

We recognize the impact to daily life is far-reaching so please know each decision is made based upon the current reality of COVID-19 activity and the recommendations and information provided by DSHS, the CDC, and The White House. We will always place the safety and well-being of our community as a first priority.

Resources and Links:

Cdc.gov

Cityofbrenham.org

Brenhamisd.org

wacounty.com

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