



---

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

---

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 19, 2020**

**From:** James Fisher, City Manager  
City Manager  
979-337-7390

### **Mayor Tate Signs Local Disaster Declaration for Brenham**

On Wednesday, March 18, Brenham Mayor Milton Tate, signed a local disaster declaration for Brenham. The City of Brenham's main priority is the health and wellbeing of our residents and the City continues to coordinate with public health and emergency management officials throughout the state and region to ensure our community is prepared with a proactive approach to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

"The City is working around the clock to stay abreast of the information released regarding COVID-19. We will get through this, but please know this is not a situation to take lightly. We, as a community, need to adhere to all guidelines of social distancing," said Mayor Tate. "We have not seen the true implications of this virus yet. But we know the only way to stop the spread is to stop gathering and distance ourselves. I ask that all Brenham residents take this seriously and practice social distancing," he added.

The City is mandating that all gatherings of more than 10 people be stopped immediately. If residents and businesses do not adhere to the City's request and the CDC guidelines, the declaration gives the Mayor authority to close them or take further action.

The disaster declaration means for Brenham residents and local businesses:

- A public health emergency is declared for the City of Brenham
- The City may take actions necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare and suppress the COVID-19 virus by:
  - establishing curfews
  - regulating occupation of and/or closing of food establishments
  - regulating occupation of and/or closing of common bar spaces open to the public and prohibition of alcohol consumption on the bar premises
  - regulating occupation of and/or closing of event venues, entertainment facilities, festivals, sports venues, museums, tourist attractions, recreation facilities, and other similar facilities where people gather
- Take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease by:
  - including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures
  - examining and regulating hospitals
  - regulating ingress and egress from the City
  - regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures
  - insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules
- Limits the size of gatherings to not more than ten (10) people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings with ten (10 or more persons until further notice). A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where ten (10) persons are present, indoor or outdoor, public or private, in a confined space, room, or area

The City encourages residents to stay informed on the latest developments through trusted sources such as:

- Texas Department of State Health Services - [www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)
- Center for Disease Control - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

There have been no confirmed cases in Brenham and Washington County. Should the Office of Emergency Management receive notification of a confirmed case in Brenham, residents will be notified via our normal communications methods. The City of Brenham will continue to coordinate with local officials to provide residents with up-to-date information.

**Resources and Links:**

[www.Cityofbrenham.org](http://www.Cityofbrenham.org)

[www.Brenhamisd.org](http://www.Brenhamisd.org)

[www.wacounty.com](http://www.wacounty.com)

[www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)

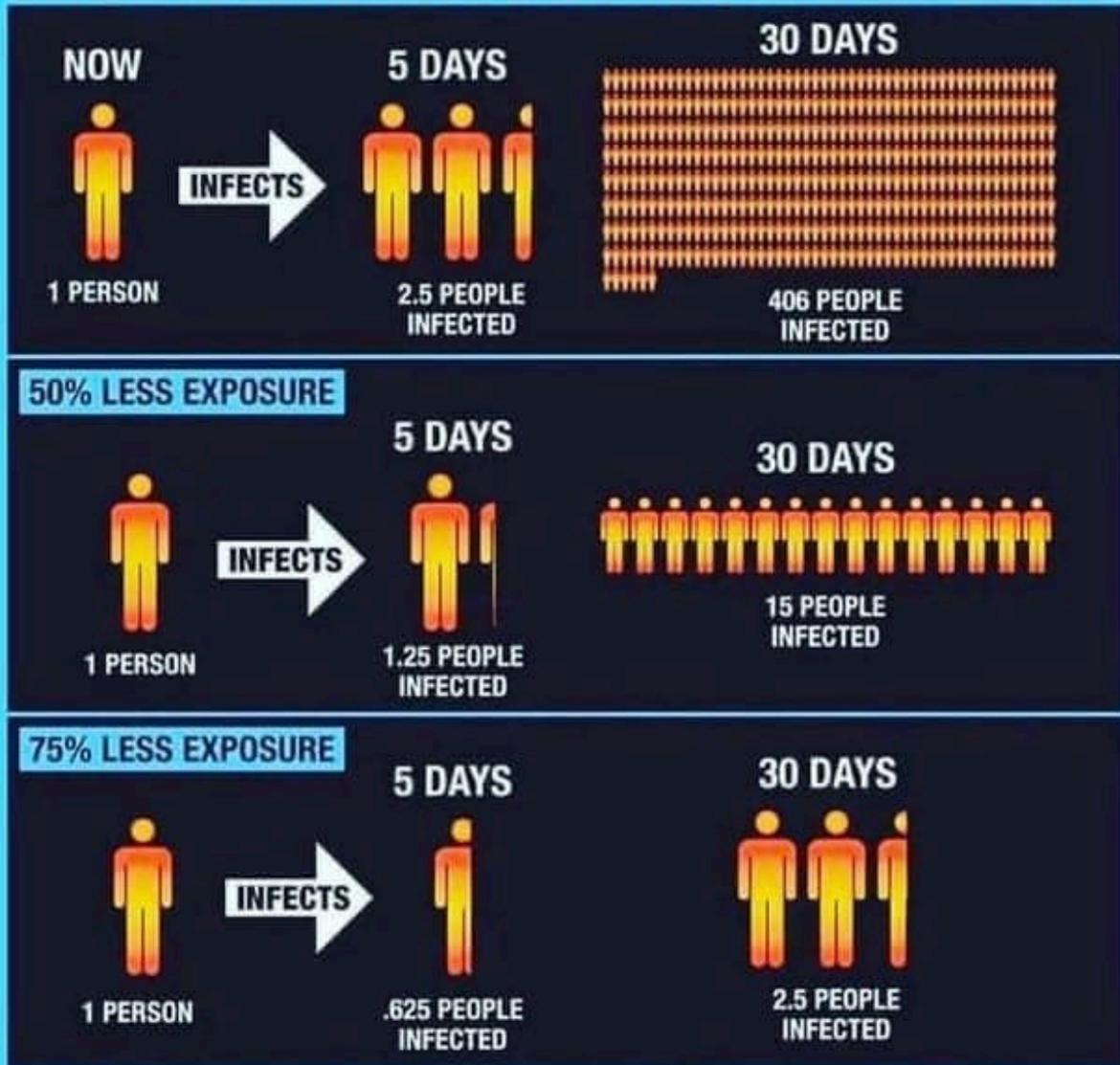
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

Word Count: 497

Attachments: The Power of Social Distancing (see below)

###

# THE POWER OF SOCIAL DISTANCING



The graphic visually displays the importance and far-reaching impact of social distancing. (Graphic source: Unknown)