

March 12, 2020

Information about the new coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading far faster than the virus itself. Last week the state health department announced the first positive test results for COVID-19 in Texas – while these cases are travel related, we absolutely need to be vigilant to keep our communities safe as this situation continues to quickly evolve.

City of Whitehouse officials and staff are working hard to keep our community as safe and protected from COVID-19 as possible. Today we want to assure you we too are making plans to help keep our workplace and community safe.

We have been working with our Public Safety Chiefs to ensure service continuity as COVID-19 continues to spread in our area. There are ways you can limit your contact and still receive quality city services. To pay your water bill, please utilize our night drop, mail or online payment options.

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Currently there is no vaccine for COVID-19, so prevention is even more critical. Reducing spread as quickly as possible will help protect our most vulnerable populations, such as seniors and those with chronic medical conditions. You can prevent the spread of coronavirus, and also the flu, by taking these steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom. Also wash them before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If there's no soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- 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 throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces you touch often with a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- People who are well do not need to wear masks at home or in public.

We continue to receive updates from NET Health, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Department of Emergency Management. Please use and share this information with others to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for doing your part to keep yourself, your colleagues, your families and your communities safe.

Leslie Black
City Manager