

Answers to relevant questions asked during the Facebook Live Commissioner's Court meeting of March 23, 2020 from the Office of the County Judge

Q: What are the penalties for individuals as well as businesses for violating this order? How will it be monitored and who will be enforcing it?

A: As set out in Chapter 418 and affirmed by Governor Abbot in his update and declaration on Sunday on Fox News channel 29 that the violations can be fined up to \$1000 with jail up to 180 days. We have also received the same language from the attorneys that represent the County Judges Association of Texas and advise several other counties through out the state. Any law enforcement officer can enforce the order. Should there be a lack of enforcement, I will call state or federal agencies to enforce any violations if necessary.

Q: **for Mr. Zamora:** what if by the time you send the individual home to play the waiting game, someone else gets infected?

A: The question will be forwarded to Mr. Zamora. Everyone tested should self-quarantine at home for the recommended 14 days. Some families with multiple members will be affected so arrangements should be made for anyone in that family to stay at home until the test results arrive. Other family members or friends should be contact me make sure enough supplies are provided during the quarantine.

Q: Should we buy gloves and masks?

A: Masks and gloves are always preferred. If your able to use gloves and a mask when you go to the grocery store, gas station or any place authorized to be open, it is wise to use gloves.

Q: Where can concerned citizens get tested and when?

A: Any citizen concerned with illness related to any of the symptoms outlined by the CDC should contact their primary doctor first. If their doctor is not available, there are a few clinics open here in Cotulla, including STHRS, Hometown Health Clinic and Dr. Garza.

Q: What about other stores, as far as screening?

A: We have limited EMT/Paramedic staff. We are limiting testing to the places that have groceries. We plan to work on other screening with other doctors and clinics. Our EMT/Paramedics follow the strict directions of their medical director Dr. Roth. Dr Roth oversees and approvals all medical protocols used by our employees.

Q: If people are running fevers, are they still allowed into the stores?

A: Businesses have the right to deny services. They are not allowed into the store. Lowes will arrange to bring the product out if the product is available. If you are not feeling well, please

have someone else go for you, or take a list of groceries and they will have someone assist you there.

Q: What about the businesses that are still letting 10+ people in a time?

A: After Thursday, the new declaration will kick in and all businesses including Lowes, Family Dollar, Dollar General Flying J, all gas stations etc., will be required to follow the mass gathering rule and it is further required that distance markers be set from the cash register indicating 6ft spacing.

Q: A lot of people working from home, is that an option for employees?

A: We can only address work from home for County Employees. Any other employee from the School, City or any other governmental office should direct their questions to their supervisor. Since we deal with the public there is very little work at home options. I have some work which requires grant experience that I can assign for a 3 maybe 4 people but not enough for the whole county.

Q: What about nursing home, appraisal district, hotels, etc. employees?

A: The employers you list are not County sponsored employees. Employees need to direct employment questions to their immediate supervisor.

Q: How many tests has Cotulla received?

A: This question is being forwarded to the medical providers.

Q: Does that include Encinal elderly nutrition?

A: Any elderly person over 60 years of age that does not have a provider can request a home delivered meal. After the declaration has expired they would have to meet income requirements to qualify. But for now, yes they qualify for a home delivered meal.

Q: How can we apply for unemployment?

A: Anyone not working should contact MRGD- online www.texasworkforce.org or call 1-800-939-6631

Q: For **Carlos Benavides** on Sterilization- is it safe to breath in?

A: The question is being forwarded to Mr. Carlos Benavidez. The product is a biodegradable product that does not harm people or food products. He will provide more details.

Q: Are you saying kids must be inside at all hours?

A: Children (under 18) must be with a parent, grandparent, adult relative or guardian if out in public. The kids shouldn't be riding around in the neighborhood but stay in their yard. This may change after a new Governor's address.