

Paul E Fischer

County Judge
Lee County



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PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2020

As of 8:00 a.m. today, Lee County still has only two confirmed cases of COVID-19. Surrounding counties have the following numbers reported on their websites:

	Total cases
Bastrop	11
Fayette	16
Milam	3
Washington	21
Burleson	2
Brazos	94
Williamson	81
Travis	484

Call the Lee County, the City of Giddings, and the City of Lexington, COVID-19 call center for information and resources. The call center number is 866-686-7873.

The County, the City of Giddings, and the City of Lexington thank the many residents who are following Governor Abbott's directive to remain at home except for essential services. We thank the many businesses who have adopted new ways to safely provide essential services.

We are one week into the Governor's executive stay home Order. Resist the temptation during this holiday season to socialize in person with anyone other than members of your household. Businesses and churches are encouraged to adapt and adopt ways to provide services to eliminate unnecessary social contact. Remember, the governor's Order states:

"In providing or obtaining essential services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they are essential services that cannot be provided through remote telework. If religious services cannot be conducted from home or through remote services, they should be conducted consistent with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, and by implementing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19." (emphasis added).

Churches are strongly encouraged to find ways to conduct services through remote means.

The County has received numerous requests to release more information of infected individuals. Remember: **HIPPA limits the information that can be released about infected individuals.** The County gets any information about infected individuals from Texas Health Services Region

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7 through County Judge Paul Fischer, Lee County's Health Official Dr. Laura Birnbaum, and County Emergency Coordinator Delynn Peschke. Upon receiving information about infected individuals, we are not able to release information that might identify an infected individual. In most cases, the County will release to the public the sex, general age, zip code residence area in the county, and how the virus was contracted, if known.

The County has also heard the rumor that the National Guard has been or is being deployed in the State of Texas. Following is information received from the Adjutant General of Texas regarding misinformation:

"You have likely heard about false messaging on the National Guard being assigned a mission of enforcing a nation-wide quarantine. These messages are spread through word of mouth, social media, and through paper fliers with false National Guard logos and advertising.

We want to stress that this information is categorically false. The Department of Homeland Security does not have the authority to mobilize the National Guard as described in these graphics. Additionally, the Texas National Guard is fully under the authority of Governor Greg Abbott during the COVID-19 response and he has publicly outlined the Guard's priorities.

As Guardsmen work to support our fellow Texans, you will begin seeing National Guard members working in your communities. These citizen Soldiers and Airmen are working with partner agencies to establish COVID-19 testing sites, support critical medical infrastructure, and provide logistical support.

Please remember, Texas Guard members are fellow Texans who work and raise families in the communities they serve. Our citizen Soldiers and Airmen are activating to help their neighbors through this difficult time and any help you can provide in rejecting harmful misinformation will help our Guard members maintain the trust they have built with their fellow Texans throughout the years of disaster responses. Together we can come through COVID-19 Texas Strong."

Continue to take the Governor's Order seriously. COVID-19 is a real threat. Rely on trusted sources for information. Just because someone posts something on Facebook or Twitter doesn't mean it is true. Don't repeat or spread information you don't know is true. Stay home. Think smart. Be safe.