



# COVID-19

Response and Continuity of Operations Plan

Fannin County, TX

for March 20, 2020

*(This report can change daily)*

## **Public Health Report**

- For the most up to date statistics in Texas, please visit:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm#coronavirus>

## **Emergency Declaration**

- Fannin County has issued a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency to help lower the curve of infection and to protect our citizens
- Texas is currently under a State of Disaster Proclamation by Governor Abbot

## **Individual Business Operations**

- Currently, Fannin County is following Governor Abbot's Executive Order GA-08.

**See Order here:**

[https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA\\_08\\_COVID-19\\_preparedness\\_and\\_mitigation\\_FINAL\\_03-19-2020\\_1.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA_08_COVID-19_preparedness_and_mitigation_FINAL_03-19-2020_1.pdf)

The key points are as follows:

- 1) In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- 2) In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- 3) In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- 4) In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

## **County Operations**

- Most non-essential court operations in Fannin County have been postponed until April 17. Essential courts proceedings will continue as scheduled and are defined by the respective courts' orders. Call the appropriate court for specific information on your case.
- County office operations and services shall be by call ahead appointment only. Business hours and phone numbers will be placed on the public entrances and available on the County website.
- Inmate visitation and inmate programs at the Fannin County Detention Facility have been cancelled until further notice. Attorney visits are still permitted, but the procedures for the visits have changed.

- At the direction of elected officials and department heads, employees with the ability to work remotely may be encouraged to do so.
- All non-critical work-related out of county travel by county employees is prohibited. All county employee work-related travel for training and conferences has been cancelled through April 3.
- County employees with fever or flu-like symptoms are required to stay home from work and are prohibited from returning to work until they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.
- Fannin County employees have been directed to cancel all non-critical staff meetings & community meetings.
- If a Fannin County employee shows signs of illness or are sent home by their supervisor because they are sick, accumulated sick time will be used until it is exhausted followed by accumulated comp time until it is exhausted and lastly, the County will compensate any time if needed during the period of March 20, 2020 through March 31, 2020. The absent employee should keep in contact with their supervisor on a daily basis if possible.

### **County Closures & Cancellations**

- The Fannin County Master Gardener's 2020 Garden Show, scheduled for Saturday, March 28 has been cancelled
- All updates will be posted on the Fannin County website: [co.fannin.tx.us](http://co.fannin.tx.us)

### **Actions and Response relating to Commissioners Court:**

The Fannin County Commissioners Court will not be cancelling meetings at this time, but court meetings will be done via teleconferencing until further notice. Information for each meeting will be placed on the agenda for that week which is available on the County website: [www.co.fannin.tx.us](http://www.co.fannin.tx.us) .

### **Prevention:**

There are simple steps everyone can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer of at 60% alcohol often
- 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 frequently touched objects and surfaces

Minimizing exposure is especially important for people who are 65 or older or who have an underlying health condition like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or cancer. People in those groups have a higher risk of developing severe disease if they do get COVID-19, and the safest thing for them during an outbreak will be to stay home as much as possible and minimize close contact with other

people. To get ready, they should talk to their doctor about getting additional prescription medications and have enough household items and groceries on hand to stay home as needed.

## **Links / Resources**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>

## **What to expect from your doctor:**

### **If Mild Symptoms:**

- Ask patient to stay home and monitor their temperature and respiratory condition
- Check back with the office in 24 hours if the symptoms remain mild
- If the symptoms worsen rapidly, contact a hospital ER
- Give patient the DSHS state Coronavirus website: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/> and state Coronavirus Call Center @ 1-877-570-9779

### **If Moderate Symptoms:**

- Ask patient to come to office for evaluation
- Mark schedule clearly as a potential viral patient
- When patient arrives at clinic, ask if it is possible to wait in their car until it's time to be seen
- If patient enters the clinic, sequester them immediately to a side of the waiting room, hand them a paper towel and ask them to cough/sneeze with caution
- Take temperature immediately

Make sure that these patients do not mingle with other patients in waiting room

Each of these patients should have their temperature taken as soon as possible either in their car or in the sequestered area inside the clinic

### **If Severe Symptoms:**

- Ask patient to directly contact a hospital ER to inquire what they should do, i.e., what is the hospital's present policy on possible coronavirus infection
- Have numbers of the closest hospital's Emergency Rooms and give them to the patients

### **If Other Questions:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted guidance on what to do if you get sick at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html)

The Texas DSHS state Coronavirus website: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

**This plan, dated March 20, 2020, supersedes any previous guidance.**

**Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**

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Randy Moore, Fannin County Judge

**ATTEST:**

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Tammy Biggar, County Clerk