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March 16, 2020

Dear Citizens of Kinney County:

As we start to see more and more news about the impact of the COVID -19 (Coronavirus), we would like to inform you about what we are doing to protect the health and safety of our employees and our citizens. In light of the recent disaster declarations, we have decided that it is in the best interest for Kinney County to continue regular business with the following restrictions:

- Visitors may access the Courthouse through the West side door only.
- Notaries will be available in Kinney County Clerk's Office between 8:00 am to 12:00 am and Judges Office between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.
- All County Court and District Court settings will be postponed until further notice. Commissioners Court meetings will be held at its regular time of 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.
- Kinney County Aging Center will be closed to the public but meals will be delivered to registered congregants daily at the Aging Center in the drive through at noon.
- Kinney County Library will accept only a limited number of visitors for a limited time (10 visitors for one hour). The Library's new hours will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Kinney County will continue to monitor and modify our services as needed. Please note that some offices will be limited to staff which may result in closure of that office. If you have any questions of concerns please contact the Kinney County Judges office for further assistance.

Thank you


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To County employees and citizens:


Here are some key things that we need to be doing to slow the spread of the coronavirus in our County. Now that we are adding in social distancing, county workers are still coming to work but taking precautions.

Simple but very important things to do:

- Keep calm.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Post handwashing signs where needed.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces often. In your offices, clean door knobs, computers, phones, cell phones and pens. Just think of anything that is frequently touched. Put hand sanitizer in common areas. Put someone in charge of your office to clean surfaces so it gets done. Everybody's work place looks a little different and every person is responsible to carry out prevention measures.
- Stay home if you're sick with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, respiratory symptoms, body aches).
- No shaking hands. Everybody pretty much understands why we need to stop doing this right now but maybe if I say it, it will take the pressure off of you.
- Schools are out right now and I want to remind everyone that your children need to stay home and not be out at the movies or at the malls. They are home for a reason.
- Consider when you are not at work what you can do to maintain distance from others. Just being aware of your surroundings and staying away from big groups and gatherings. CDC has recommended no more than 50 people at a gatherings. CDC defines social distancing as remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet) from others when possible.

- Protect our healthcare system by not going to the ER unless it is emergent. Call ahead to your doctor's office if you have flu like symptoms and you feel you may have been in contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Consider those around you and those over 65 or with medical issues who we really don't want to get sick. Nursing homes have strict guidelines for visitors right now and they are taking strict infection control measures. Let's please do the right thing and stay away from nursing homes.
- Take care of the elderly around you and those with medical needs. Make sure they have supplies and medications so they don't have to go out and get them.
- If you have kids or if you are grandparents of kids, remember to talk to them and listen to what they have to say. They need to voice their feelings and they need to understand what's going on and not be scared.
- No need to overwhelm the stores, get a little extra each time you go and you'll have a stock.

Please, stay vigilant and informed so we can look back and not regret it.



Tully Shahhan
Kinney County Judge