

City of Wharton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact Person: Paula Favors, TRMC, MMC, CPM City Secretary
City of Wharton
979-532-2491
www.cityofwharton.com

Message from the Mayor Regarding COVID-19

Wharton, TX, March 25, 2020-

Below is a message from City of Wharton Mayor Tim Barker.

The City of Wharton has experienced many challenges over the years and the recently declared global pandemic of COVID-19 is a new challenge residents are taking on but we are in this together. This past weekend, Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath announced the first case of COVID-19 in Wharton County and then just yesterday two additional cases were confirmed.

Protecting those most at risk.

This virus is particularly dangerous to our seniors and those with compromised immune systems or other underlying conditions. We must realize that each of us has a role in the health and well-being of ourselves, families, friends, and community.

What Wharton is doing.

The current strategy that we are undertaking in Wharton is to slow the spread of the virus so that our healthcare system does not become overwhelmed. If we make no changes to our daily lives, the virus may overwhelm our healthcare system, leaving doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals in a dire situation, coupled with the potential for supply shortages. I know that may seem overblown in our community with no known cases yet, but virtually all medical professionals concur that it will spread and that these measures must be taken by all of us, to protect all of us.

A whole community response.

Each of us needs to do what we can to keep ourselves and our fellow neighbors healthy. We need the leaders of all organizations in our City to make sound, informed decisions based on strategies communicated by the experts at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to protect the most at-risk population.

What you can do.

Each of us needs to do what we can to keep ourselves and our fellow Whartonians healthy. Even if you feel that you may not be at risk it is time to think about your grandparents, parents, guardians, beloved aunt or uncle, neighbor, or anyone over the age of 60; those most at risk, along with others whose immune or respiratory system is compromised. In addition to practicing good hygiene (washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and covering coughs and sneezes) and social distancing, if we are exposed to

someone who develops the virus, we must take proactive measures to quarantine (self-isolate) ourselves from others for 14 days.

Wharton is resilient.

In the coming days and weeks, we will learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 on our community. But know this: The City of Wharton is fully integrated and responding to the threat, and the disruptions and protective actions we are taking are in direct response to the information known at this time and will not persist forever.

Please understand that if we successfully adopt the strategy of avoiding gatherings of ten or more people and staying home unless it is necessary to leave, we will contribute to "flattening the curve." As a result, lives in our community for those most at-risk will be saved from illness or more serious complications. While we may not know every person saved, realize they could be our parents, grandparents, children, friends, or neighbors.

If there is one thing that I have learned while being Mayor of Wharton, it's that despite our differences, in times like these we come together, support one another, and can overcome whatever comes our way.

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