



Jeff Davis County Statement on COVID-19
March 13, 2020

The Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court would like to reassure our citizens and visitors that we are monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 situation. There are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in the Trans-Pecos. We are being briefed by state and national health authorities regularly, and will coordinate and cooperate with those authorities as needed. Our county departments are as prepared as they can be. Should any actions become necessary we will respond quickly and appropriately.

Our local media outlets are doing a great job to provide information you can trust. The Big Bend Sentinel, Jeff Davis County Mountain Dispatch and Marfa Public Radio are all providing timely and authoritative information. The most up-to-date information can be found at:

Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
U.S. Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For now we simply ask that everyone follow the guidelines that have been widely distributed, and we ask our businesses to take extra precautions to help protect the public:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away. Cough into your elbow if no tissue is handy.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

DSHS also recommends that you start practicing social distancing. Social distancing involves staying away from other people to avoid catching or spreading illness. It's a fancy term for avoiding crowds and minimizing physical contact. This could mean avoiding concerts or weddings, skipping the handshake, and/or staying at least six feet away from others.

We also ask that people refrain from exhausting the limited resources of our small local grocery stores. The supply chain in far west Texas is not like other areas. Restocking takes time. Buy what you need for normal life but please do not "panic buy" and hoard. Over-buying means someone else will not have what they need for their family. That's not the west Texas way.

Jeff Davis County has proven time and again that when faced with challenges our community comes together to work through them in a way we should all be very proud of. That's what we do and that's what we will do today.

As always your Jeff Davis County government is here to serve you. If you have any questions please let us know.