



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF TAYLOR AND WILLIAMSON COUNTY ISSUE DISASTER DECLARATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

TAYLOR, Texas – In response to the increasing concerns of COVID-19 across the nation, the City of Taylor and Williamson County leaders each have declared a “local state of disaster” to more proactively increase preventative measures and require mitigation plans for events in the region.

These extraordinary measures were taken following disaster declarations by the President of the United States and the Texas Governor and based on information provided by emergency services agencies. While Williamson County has no confirmed cases of the coronavirus, to ensure the health and safety of all our residents, County Judge Bill Gravell issued a disaster declaration to activate the emergency management plan. The City of Taylor is also issuing a local disaster declaration. These actions will allow the City and the County to allocate resources, utilize personnel and enact procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the City of Taylor and Williamson County. It also allows for state assistance to be requested if local resources and mutual aid are insufficient. Under the local disaster declaration, the County Judge and the Mayor are given the authority to exercise any and all necessary powers set out under the Texas Disaster Act of Texas Government Code Chapter 418.

The City will release additional information on measures as it becomes available.

Key factors considered in this decision include:

- The likelihood for extended close personal contact
- Potential crowd density at upcoming events
- The lack of a vaccine and limited treatment options to manage cases.

Taylor Mayor Brandt Rydell said: “We have declared a local disaster to protect Taylor residents. It is important that we do everything we can to keep our residents safe in this rapidly evolving environment. We appreciate our residents continuing to be using common sense preventative measures.”

“We are following the guidance from President Trump and Governor Abbott and working together at the local level to ensure the safety of our community,” said Judge Gravel. “We are prepared to protect our residents and ask that you remain calm and continue to practice the preventative measures outlined by the CDC. These simple steps will help by reducing the spread of disease to the point where our healthcare system can maintain capacity and properly care for our communities.”

No positive test results for COVID-19 have been received by Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) at this time. However, the City and the County are prepared for the possibility of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Proactive preparedness measures have been undertaken, in coordination with local, state and federal partners.

People can help prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses, including influenza and COVID-19, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If people feel unwell they should contact their primary care provider before going to a clinic, urgent care or emergency department, to prevent any potential spread. All local businesses and restaurants are urged to display information to encourage people to follow good hygiene practices to keep the community safe.

The City of Taylor continues to monitor this ongoing and fluid situation closely with the Williamson County and WCCHD. Updates will be posted at taylortx.gov and on social media.

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