

First Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Wood County

Wood County, Texas (Tuesday, March 31, 2020)

NET Health has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in Wood County. The individual is hospitalized and was exposed due to community spread. “We were advised today that an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 in our county, apparently due to community spread”, said County Judge Lucy Hebron.

Community spread means there is more than one possible source for COVID-19 to become acquired by any individual,” says George Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of NET Health. “The public has the responsibility, more than ever, to follow recommendations from health officials.”

Judge Hebron states “It is critical that all citizens follow the social distancing requirements, CDC guidelines, and the presidential and gubernatorial orders, now more than ever”. She urges the public to observe these policies to curtail the spread.

If you have been exposed to a sick traveler, have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or are experiencing fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, please contact your healthcare provider and self-quarantine for 14 days is recommended.

Please be sure to call before going to a medical provider, to prevent any potential spread.

Residents are reminded to take the same measures that are recommended to prevent the spread of the flu and other respiratory viruses. Everyone in Wood County should remember to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice social distancing – Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you believe you have symptoms.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects using cleaning items that contain bleach.
- Follow all recommendations from your local health officials.

More information about the ways all East Texas communities can help to slow disease transmission are maintained at <https://www.MyNETHealth.org/coronavirus>