

NEWS RELEASE

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Abilene area COVID-19 cases expected to increase over the next two weeks *RESIDENTS URGED TO CONTINUE SOCIAL DISTANCING TO HELP MANAGE THE RATE OF COMMUNITY INFECTION*

ABILENE, Texas – The Abilene Taylor-County Public Health District would like to encourage Abilene area residents to continue social distancing efforts implemented by Abilene City Council and Texas Governor Greg Abbott as local health authorities expect the number of cases in our area to increase over the next two weeks.

Abilene Taylor-County Public Health District Medical Director Dr. Annie Drachenberg stresses local medical professionals have been working to prepare for Abilene’s predicted surge in COVID-19 cases; however, it’s important everyone continue practicing social distancing to help in the management and care of patients.

“This is a virus with a very high transmission rate, and many people will get this virus. Social distancing measures we have taken are working to control the rate of new infections and hospitalizations so we have plenty of healthcare resources available to those who are going to get very sick from this virus,” said Dr. Drachenberg.

Dr. Drachenberg explains that while it can be alarming to see the number of infections across our community growing, this increase is expected and best managed through social distancing. “As long as infections aren’t increasing too rapidly, then new infections and recoveries in our community can be useful as they create better “herd immunity.” This is why I urge everyone to stay home as much as possible; especially older citizens and those with a compromised immune system,” said Dr. Drachenberg.

The Abilene Taylor-County Public Health District urges area residents to slow the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Practicing social distancing, and staying home as much as possible
- Wearing a mask when away from home
- Washing or sanitizing hands often, and avoid touching your face
- Covering sneezes and coughs
- Staying home if you are sick
- Routinely cleaning commonly touched surfaces

Symptoms of COVID-19 include cough, fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, fatigue, and difficulty breathing.

If you may be showing symptoms for COVID-19, call your medical provider, the Abilene Taylor-County Public Health District at 325.692.5600, Abilene Regional Medical Center at 325.428.1000, Abilene Diagnostic Clinic at 325.437.8602, or text covidhelp to Hendrick Health System at 325.216.4824. Please do not arrive at a medical facility without first making contact by phone and receiving instruction.

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