



A Message from Mayor Rios

March 21, 2020

Governor Abbott's Executive Order (<https://cityofrockport.com/Archive.aspx?ADID=2930>) is now in force throughout the State. Additionally, Officials have confirmed the first COVID-19 case in Nueces County.

According to a local news report, Corpus Christi Mayor Joe McComb said in a Saturday press conference that the patient is a Corpus Christi man between the ages of 45 and 55. The patient is quarantined and is being closely monitored. People who have made contact with the patient have been notified and are also being monitored closely. Officials say the case is travel related.

Key components of the Executive Order include:

- Limiting social gatherings to 10 people
- Prohibition on eating and drinking at restaurants and bars – although takeout and delivery orders of food and alcoholic beverages (with food purchase) are still available
- Closing of gyms
- Banning visitors at nursing homes, long term care, facilities, skilled nursing facilities, etc., except for critical care
- Closing of schools

We strongly believe we can “flatten the curve” in our community through awareness, proper sanitary practices, minimizing social interaction, and adhering to the Executive Order.

As an added precaution, the City is closing the lobby at its facilities. This means we will no longer be accepting payments at the Utility Customer Service office. Individuals may sign up for bank drafts (<https://cityofrockport.com/DocumentCenter/View/12521/Bank-Draft-Form?bidId=>), pay by credit card through the online payment system (<https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/rockporttx>), mail in their payments, or use the drop box, which is located to the right of the front door in front of the window.

What are some of the other things we can do locally?

1. Stop hoarding. Do you truly need a year's worth of toilet paper? Remember there are others who may not be able to get goods they need on a day-to-day basis due to overbuying.

(more)

2. **Help Those in Need.** Check on family, friends and neighbors that may not be able to go to the store due to working hours, lack of transportation, and illness. While several stores are offering pre-opening shopping for elders, they may still need assistance.
3. **Set up a “Co-op” System.** Put together a group of friends/family/neighbors to share resources and shopping duties. Some folks may have stocked up on food and household items at a sale before the pandemic was announced. Plus, there's no need for five people to go to the store – and you will be reducing your carbon footprint.
4. **Put Wipes in the Trash.** Even if they say “flushable,” throw them OUT. We do not want to put a strain on the sanitary system and wipes have been known to cause pipe clogs.
5. **Keep Yourself Engaged.** Catch up on reading, start your Spring cleaning early, work in the yard, get your taxes done, binge watch a new series, fill out the Census form, etc. There is no reason to become overwhelmed or anxious. If you start to feel antsy, call a friend, take a walk or explore your artistic side.
6. **Support Local Businesses.** This is a critical time for them ... and their employees. Most of the restaurants in our area are offering take-out and curbside pickup. Some now have delivery and full meal packages.

If the State's Executive Order will have an effect on your current employment status, please visit this web site: <https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services>. Walmart and HEB are hiring stockers.

Federal and State weblinks can be located on the City's web site (www.cityofrockport.com) or the Chamber's web site (https://www.rockport-fulton.org/Coronavirus_COVID_19_Update).

Remember – Through FACTS, not Fear, we'll come through it.