

April 4, 2020

## A Message from Mayor Rios



The County now has its first confirmed case. And, the CDC made the following announcement yesterday:

*CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.*

*It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-foot social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.*

*The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.*

As such, there are certain protocols you should follow:

1. Wash or sanitize your hands before you pick up the mask/face covering
2. Check it for any tears or holes
3. Make sure that it covers your mouth and nose
4. Make sure the mask is pulled over both ears and secured tightly. If using another form of face covering, make sure that it is secure and will not slip when seated or walking.
5. Do not touch the mask/face covering while you are out and about.
6. Do not pull the mask/face covering down to take a breath, eat and drink, or to make talking easier.

7. If you must remove a mask/face covering, please replace it with a new one
8. DO NOT reuse. If it's a single use mask, please wrap it in tissue or place in a plastic bag before putting it in the trash. If it's a fabric mask, wash it immediately with hot water.

If you do not have an item at home that can be used as a face covering, contact Aransas County PPE Sewing Relief Group, an amazing group of local volunteers on Facebook.

This is a bigger fight than Harvey -- and an invisible one at that. We owe it to ourselves, our loved ones, and friends and neighbors in the community to do whatever it takes to stop the spread of this insidious virus.

As a reminder, The Order continues until 11:59 pm on April 14

***Remember -- through facts, not fear we'll come through it.***