

## City of Rockport



**Honorable Mayor  
Patrick R. Rios**

Rockport Service Center  
2751 S.H. 35 Bypass  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-729-2213

## Aransas County



**Honorable Judge  
C.H. Burt Mills, Jr.**

Aransas County Court House  
2840 Highway 35 N.  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-790-0101

## Town of Fulton



**Honorable Mayor  
Kelli Cole**

City Hall  
201 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fulton, TX 78358  
361-729-5533

## A MESSAGE TO ARANSAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

July 8, 2020

There are a lot of questions, concerns and rumors that have manifest themselves during this pandemic. It is, and always has been, our intention to provide full transparency and the dissemination of factual information to the residents of Aransas County.

As we receive information on new cases, recovery rates, local testing and more, it is publicized through the entity web sites and social media. At first it was weekly but has now become daily. Both the City of Rockport and the Chamber have active COVID-19 pages that provide direct links to government agencies, trendlines, and other valuable resources. Additionally, we are holding weekly briefings on 10 am on Wednesday which may be viewed on the Facebook pages of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber and Rockport Pilot live ... or later in the day at your convenience.

Many of us know of information about individuals, including hospitalizations and possible fatalities, that has not been shared. The reason is simple – it hasn't been confirmed through our central source of information the Texas Department of State Health Services. It could be that it hasn't been verified or is simply late in coming to us because of the overwhelming demands associated with COVID-19.

For those who are unaware, Aransas County does not have a designated Health Department, as do our neighboring counties. As such, we are reliant on several government agencies to assist with our needs and are under the direction of the Region 11 office of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Any day there is new information, it will be shared after 4 pm.

If you are wondering about specific information that may not be included in our briefings, we urge you to utilize the resources available on the Internet or contact an elected official. One of the most interesting is the "Dashboard," a map on which you can pinpoint information about a particular county. For daily information on number of cases, you may simply click on the map. For more comprehensive information on recoveries, hospitalizations, demographics, etc. there are tabs at the bottom of the display.

If you feel that you may have symptoms, there is a self-checker on the DSHS site. We urge you to contact your doctor immediately. IF you have having respiratory distress, please visit an emergency room. If you do not have a primary care physician, please visit this web site to find a local testing site endorsed by the DSHS - <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>

Please be aware that the State only recognizes PCR diagnostic tests. There are some tests that are touted as being effective, but are not considered valid by the DSHS. Additionally, the antibody tests are designed to determine if someone had the coronavirus. It does not give an indication of whether it is a past or current infection.

These are difficult times for all of us. We should not let fear or rumors lead us. Nor should we become complacent in adhering to safety protocols. None of us enjoy wearing masks, but it's what needs to be done at the present time. Be safe.