



March 19, 2020

From the Office of the Mayor, Sam Fugate, City of Kingsville, Texas

## COVID LETTER #2

Dear Citizens of the City of Kingsville,

This letter is to advise the citizens of the City of Kingsville my expectations for each of you to assist with efforts to thwart the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus 2019) pandemic.

**Let me be very clear, this is a pandemic that can, and will, harm our citizen's, and even cause death, if we don't take extra precautions to reduce risk of exposure now!** I need each and every citizen of the City of Kingsville to take this pandemic serious and follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the County and City governments, our City/County Health Department, and the Kingsville CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital.

### **How does COVID-19 spread and what are the recommendations?**

The CDC and DSHS say the virus is spread mainly from person to person when in close contact of one another; within six (6) feet.

The virus is spread easiest through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and the droplets get to another person, or a surface where another person touches.

These above agencies and governmental entities have recommended the following:

1. CDC says if there is minimal or moderate spread of COVID-19 in our community (and I believe it is here even though we have no confirmed case(s) yet), cancel all public gatherings of 250 people or more. They also recommend that until the end of March, public gatherings of more than 10 people should be cancelled.
2. DSHS is recommending persons adhere to CDC or local governmental guidance.
3. Kleberg County's official disaster declaration limits public gatherings to less than 50 persons, which excludes employees in businesses, HEB, Wal-Mart and CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital.
4. My disaster declaration for the City of Kingsville posted on March 18, 2020, says to follow CDC guidelines, which again is for now, public gatherings of greater than 10 people should be cancelled. I've stipulated in my disaster declaration that I'm holding business and venue owners responsible for complying with CDC guidance to the fullest extent possible.
5. Breaking news as of noon on March 19, 2020, and effective at 11:59pm, March 20, 2020 until 11:59pm, April 3, 2020: Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order that requires the following:

- **Order No. 1:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- **Order No. 2:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.
- **Order No. 3:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- **Order No. 4:** In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.
- This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.

As your Mayor, I fully support the Governor's Executive Order and expect citizens to comply with said order.

#### **What should you do if you think you are sick?**

First, do not go to CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital as your first step. Please call your medical provider or call CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital for guidance at (361) 595-9746.

Citizens with routine appointments at Spohn should use the front door as normal. Those citizens that are directed to come to the hospital with possible COVID—19 symptoms, along with other symptoms that are life threatening such as breathing complications, are directed to use the Emergency Room Ambulance entrance only. Please call ahead to CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital before departing for the Emergency Room.

If you believe you have COVID-19 and your medical provider or CHRISTUS Spohn hospital decides through their pre-screening checklist that you fall under the designation of a COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation (PUI), and you do not have other complications requiring Emergency Room treatment, you will be referred for testing to the Kleberg County designated location to undergo further pre-screening and testing.

If you are referred to the Kleberg County designated location for testing, once the testing is complete, follow staff directions. You will be directed to self-quarantine at home until a determination of your test results is received.

One final note; the Kleberg County designated location for testing will NOT accept walk-in patients who think they are sick and/or want to get tested. You must be referred by a medical professional or CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital.

I cannot stress enough my request for citizens to get serious about this pandemic and refrain from gatherings, limit movements to avoid exposure, if sick, follow guidance to seek medical advice before going to any hospital or care facility, and lastly, maintain social distancing to avoid to the fullest extent possible, exposure to COVID-19.

The city staff is standing by to assist you should you have comments, questions or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam R. Fugate". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a prominent "F".

Sam R. Fugate,  
Mayor  
City of Kingsville, Texas