

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HITCHCOCK  
Corona Virus Talking Points**

**The City of Hitchcock follows Galveston County Emergency plans. The information that has been provided over the last few weeks from Galveston County is what all Citizens should follow.**

**City Facilities**

- The Hitchcock Library is closed and all programming has been canceled until further notice. This is also likely to be extended.
- City Hall and the Municipal Courts building are open and operating under normal business hours and being re-evaluated on a daily basis.
- However, we are encouraging residents to take advantage of the City's various online portals than can be used to make a utility bill payment or pay a court fine. You can find links on the homepage of our City's website.
- **Over the coming days and weeks, The City Hitchcock will continue to assess the situation and will update residents regularly about future closures and impacts to the community through the City's website and social media pages.**
- **The situation is changing daily and sometimes hourly, so we are encouraging all residents to check the City's website and social media channels regularly for updates.**

**Social Distancing and Postponement of City Events Over 50 people**

- As news about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to develop, the City of Hitchcock is actively monitoring the situation.
- We are following the latest guidelines put forth by the CDC as well as the Galveston County Health Department, particularly when it comes to "social distancing".
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure our healthcare system isn't overwhelmed, social distancing is recommended.
- The hope is that if we prevent the rapid transmission of the coronavirus it will disperse cases over time, rather than overwhelming hospitals all at once.
- Given the recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the limitation of activities with more than 50 people, and to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and residents, the City of Hitchcock is postponing/canceling all City-sponsored events until further notice.

## **Meetings Canceled**

- In addition to City events, all City board, committee, and advisory group meetings have been canceled.
- The April City Council meeting has been cancelled. If a situation arises, a special called meeting will take place.

## **Court Dockets to be Rescheduled**

- **Based on recommendations from the Texas Office of Court Administration, all scheduled court dockets in The City Municipal Court are cancelled through the month of April and being rescheduled to later dates.**
- Clerks are currently working on resetting these dockets and will be notifying individuals of their new date to appear.

## **Emergency Operations**

- The City's Emergency Operations Center is currently requiring departments to evaluate all aspects of City operations to ensure the continuity of essential City services.
- This includes identification of critical staff members required to maintain adequate service. Police, Fire, EMS, and Water/Wastewater departments will remain operational.

## **Non-Emergency City Employee Operations**

- The City is directing City employees to cancel travel for the months of March and April.
- Staff have been emphasizing good hygiene practices throughout all City facilities and stressing the importance of employees staying home when sick.

## **If you feel sick**

- **If you do feel sick and believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your health care provider or a hospital immediately. Describe your symptoms and travel history.**
- **The Galveston County Health District has opened an information call center to answer questions about COVID-19.**
- The center is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The number to call is 409-938-7221.

## **Residents Can Help Prevent the Spread of an Illness**

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. The CDC recommends keeping a distance of at least six feet.
- Stay home when you are sick. Keeping a sick child at home prevents the spread of illness in the school and community and allows your child an opportunity to rest and recover.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## **Grocery Store**

- A two-week supply of food and necessities for your family is enough to get through a period of quarantine.
- As long as residents only buy what they need, there will be enough food and supplies for everyone.
- Federal and local government authorities have encouraged people to stop stockpiling groceries, and grocery stores have limited the purchase of certain products.

## **Price Gouging**

- **If you see price gouging, please report it to local authorities or file a complaint with the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508.**

## **We are All in This Together**

- We must remain vigilant and follow the guidelines recommended by the CDC.
- Stay the course and maintain social distancing when possible.
- We will all be inconvenienced and will be making changes to our daily lives and routines.
- This is critical to stop the spread of the Virus.
- Be supportive of neighbors and family
- The City of Hitchcock is resilient, we saw that during Harvey, and we will pull through this.

## **Mayor Randy Strickland**