



Reeves County
Hospital District

Press Release
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Taking Steps to Prevent COVID-19 is Crucial to Protecting the Community

The illness has led to many deaths throughout Texas.

PECOS, Texas (July 20, 2020) – Texas in recent weeks has seen a sharp rise in the number of new cases of COVID-19. State and local health officials are urging everyone in the community to take steps to prevent the spread of the disease to protect themselves and others.

“COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease, and taking everyday precautions to limit its spread is crucial to protecting our community,” said Dr. Louis McIntire, Family Practice w/OB physician and Chief of Staff for Reeves County Hospital District. “Wearing a mask over your mouth and nose in public, washing your hands often or using hand sanitizer, and limiting exposure to others are three of the most important things that we can do.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 265,000 Texans have tested positive for COVID 19. The disease has led to the deaths of more than 3,200 people across the state.

Wearing a mask in public is key to preventing the spread of the illness. Studies have shown that when individuals wear masks, they are less likely to spread the disease to others.

“Masks are key to slowing the spread of COVID-19, but they only work when everyone wears one,” Dr. McIntire said. “Although it may seem inconvenient, remember that wearing a mask protects not only you, but also others in our community.”

Because the illness is transmitted primarily from person to person, another key component of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is by social distancing. Many of those who are infected with COVID-19 can be infectious for several days before experiencing symptoms, which is why avoiding time spent in public or in group settings is so important.

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According to McIntire, everyone should wash their hands frequently and limit time spent in public to necessary tasks such as buying food and medicine.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath. Those who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 are also asked to seek medical advice.

If you suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms, you should not go directly to the hospital or clinic but rather call your healthcare provider or the Pecos Valley Rural Health clinic first to determine whether you should be tested. Testing is currently available in the community for those who meet certain medical criteria, as evaluated by the hospital's medical team.

According to Dr. McIntire, it is important to pay attention to updated guidance from state and federal health officials.

"Since there is not yet a vaccine or cure for COVID-19, it will continue to be important to follow safety precautions," Dr. McIntire said. "We will continue monitoring the situation and offering information to protect the community."

He added that although we should take precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19, it is important not to delay care for health issues.

"We remain ready to care for you and your family," Dr. McIntire said. "Many people have chosen to delay necessary medical care due to fear of COVID-19. However, delaying healthcare services can put you at risk. You can take comfort knowing that the hospital and clinic are safe choices for your healthcare needs. Our hospital and clinic have taken many steps to keep infected patients or those suspected of being infected separated from well patients to assure your safety,"

In Reeves County, the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic is a convenient choice for families with busy schedules. Appointments can be scheduled for a number of services, including immunizations, comprehensive adolescent and adult health, Medicare screenings, women's health care, obstetrics, and annual wellness exams.

To learn more about local healthcare services or to schedule an appointment at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, please call 432-447-056.