



Reeves County
Hospital District

Press Release
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As Cases Rise, COVID-19 Remains a Threat in Reeves County and Texas

Local health officials urge the community to take steps to slow the spread.

PECOS, Texas (Nov 30, 2020) – The nation has seen the daily rate of COVID-19 infections hit record highs in recent days. In the local community, Reeves County Hospital District has seen a sharp increase in the number of patients who are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19.

As the number of active cases continues to climb, local health officials are urging everyone to take steps to protect themselves and the most vulnerable in our community.

“The number of COVID-19 cases that we have seen over the past several weeks has been alarming,” said Dr. Deitrick L. Gorman, Family Practice w/OB physician at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves County Hospital District. “As more and more patients with serious symptoms seek treatment, the situation is growing more dangerous for everyone in the community. It is crucial that we all take steps to slow the spread of this virus.”

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, more than 1.1 million Texans have been infected with COVID-19, which has led to the deaths of more than 20,000 people across the state.

Harvard University recently released data showing that more than 120 Texas counties are at the “red level” for COVID-19 risk, meaning the number of cases is dangerously high. Reeves County is among them.

According to Dr. Gorman, just a few crucial steps can help prevent the spread of the virus – wearing a mask in public, distancing yourself from others in public, avoiding large group gatherings and washing your hands frequently. Dr. Gorman emphasized the need to wear a mask when in public.

“Time and again studies have shown that when people wear masks, they are less likely to spread the disease to others,” Dr. Gorman said. “Although it may seem inconvenient, wearing a mask helps protect you and the most vulnerable people in our community from the dangerous disease.”

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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), those with certain underlying health conditions and the elderly are at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Still, the disease is unpredictable and even otherwise young and healthy individuals have faced serious illness or death from the virus.

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. As the holiday season approaches, keeping gatherings small will remain an important way to avoid spreading the disease.

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

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

According to Dr. Gorman, the next few months will be crucial for protecting others, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

"Recent vaccine breakthroughs mean that the end of the pandemic will soon be in sight," Dr. Gorman said. "These are difficult times, but take comfort knowing that this will not last forever. It is important that we remain vigilant and protect each other while the virus remains a threat."

To learn more about local healthcare services, visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

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