



Press Release
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What to Know About COVID-19 in Reeves County

Reeves County Hospital District reminds community to take steps to prevent spread of virus.

PECOS, Texas (March 31, 2020) – As the coronavirus continues to spread throughout Texas, many in the local community are left wondering what to do. Thankfully, the easiest way to help prevent the spread of the virus is to stay home. Reeves County Hospital District is reminding the community to take steps to slow the spread of the virus and to be sure to call your provider or the clinic if you experience symptoms.

“Our healthcare team is working around the clock to reinforce our ability to respond to COVID-19,” said Brenda McKinney, CEO of Reeves County Hospital District. “To prevent the spread of the illness in our community we are asking the community to continue following advice from state and federal health officials. The best thing you can do is to stay home and enjoy time with your family unless you need medical care.”

To protect patients and the community, Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves County Hospital District, is able to provide special screenings to determine whether patients should be tested for COVID-19. Only those who meet certain medical criteria can be tested at this time.

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 or who have been in an area with an ongoing outbreak are also asked to seek medical advice.

If you suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms, McKinney said that you should not go directly to the hospital or clinic but rather call your healthcare provider or the clinic first to determine what to do next.

Testing is currently available in the community for those who meet certain medical criteria, as evaluated by the hospital’s medical team.

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Actions you can take to avoid the spread of COVID-19 include limiting time spent outside the home to necessary tasks such as buying food and medicine, washing your hands frequently and ensuring things are properly cleaned.

“Staying at home is one of the easiest ways that you can help protect yourself and others in the community,” McKinney said. “Although the news reports may be alarming, staying home with your family is an important way that you can help everyone. Stay healthy, stay home and stay well.”

Those most at risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 are those with weak or compromised immune symptoms and the elderly.

It is believed that the virus is spreading from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing; close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands; touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands; and rarely, fecal contamination.

In addition to limiting time in public, frequent hand washing is an important way to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus. Wash hands regularly, especially after coughing or sneezing, caring for someone who is sick or after handling animals. It is also important to be mindful of when you touch your face.

“Staying calm, practicing good hand hygiene and avoiding large groups can help control the spread.” McKinney said. “We are continuing to closely monitor the spread of the illness throughout Texas and are closely coordinating with state and federal health officials”

To learn more about local medical services and providers, visit www.reevescountyhospital.com or call Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic 432-447-0565 to schedule an appointment.

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About Reeves County Hospital District

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy,



general surgery, a clinical laboratory and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Reeves Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations and other medical services. For more information, please visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.