



Office of the Mayor  
Tommy Sloan

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CITY OF COLEMAN**  
March 17, 2020

## City of Coleman statement on COVID-19

The United States has experienced a chaotic week with the outbreak of COVID-19, the effect to the Stock Market, and the cancellation or postponement of a large number of sporting and public events. I wanted to update you at the local level to discuss the City of Coleman's readiness to face any local challenge and encourage each of you who are watching this situation unfold.

The health and well-being of our community, our constituents, and employees is our top priority. We share the same concerns and uncertainty regarding the virus as you do. The City of Coleman stands unified with Coleman County Officials in this alarming situation. Yesterday, March 16, 2020, City Officials met with the leadership from Coleman County and Coleman County Medical Center to discuss the local precautions and guidelines put in place to promote public safety regarding the Coronavirus Disease – 2019, most commonly referred to as Corona Virus or COVID-19.

As of the latest report, there are **NO CONFIRMED CASES** in Coleman County and our 19 County District, consisting of: Callahan, McCulloch, Runnels, Taylor, and Brown, among others. We are being advised to take a common sense approach to the situation, so this message is one of **FACT and not FEAR**, of **PREPAREDNESS** and not **PANIC**.

**Know the facts about COVID-19 and help stop the spread of rumors:**

Fact #1 – You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19

Fact #2 – There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. The CDC recommends the following to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food

Fact #3 – Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19

- Older Adults
- People who have chronic health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes
- People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure

Fact #4 – Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

- For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page at [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

We will maintain daily contact with our district's Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and our local Officials. The City of Coleman in coordinating efforts with County Officials, will continue to closely monitor and adjust our plans accordingly as this situation unfolds.

We are reassuring our residents that during this time, the City has comprehensive plans and processes in place to help ensure the safe, reliable delivery of services to our Residents. *City Operations will continue as normal.*

The City of Coleman has enacted the following safety measures to include:

- Increasing cleaning and disinfecting frequency of facilities and vehicles
- Emphasizing good hygiene, including washing and sanitizing hands
- Equipping employees with hand sanitizer in their vehicles
- Directing field employees to attempt to resolve issues without entering homes or businesses
- Requiring employees to stay home if they are feeling sick
- Following to the greatest extent possible social distancing guidelines; and
- Suspending travel dependent on where travel is required

We stand united with Coleman County and, at this time, no plans are in place to order and prevent the gathering of large crowds for events. Event Organizers should use their best judgement, taking into consideration the CDC's recommendations.

We are asking residents to be compassionate towards one another during this time and follow the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please be smart, remain calm, and be kind to others. It may be that you are not worried about the virus itself, but please still use preventive measures so you don't pass the virus to someone else who might suffer greatly if they fall ill. We are encouraging you to support your local businesses and offer encouragement to public service workers (county, city, school, hospital, and the business and

retail industry) who still show up every day and interact with the public as part of our commitment to our Community.

Now is our time to showcase what Coleman County is all about – we are community of strong, unified, and resilient West Texans, who will not only survive, but thrive, and come out stronger during this Pandemic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tommy Sloan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tommy Sloan  
Mayor

**C**ommitted to our Residents, **O**rganizational Pride, **L**eading by Example, **E**xcellent Customer Service,  
**M**aking a Difference, **A**ccountable for our actions, **N**ever settle for less – We are **COLEMAN**