



CITY OF CONROE

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My fellow citizens, I wish to speak to you about what we expect over the next few weeks and months as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) moves through our community. As you well know, we are strong and resilient. We have weathered many storms together, and I am confident we will face this challenge with the same spirit and care for one another that has gotten us through adversity in the past.

I will not minimize what we are facing. Coronavirus spreads quickly and easily. Most people experience mild symptoms, but some experience serious symptoms that will require hospitalization. The Montgomery County Health District is seeing indications that the virus will spread within our County. The number of people who will need specialized medical care will likely rise over the coming weeks and months. Our goals are to slow the spread of the virus, and protect our medical resources for those who will need them.

This is what you can do:

- Embrace social distancing measures. Stay home. Avoid crowds. Urge family and friends to take this seriously.
- Follow hygiene guidelines. Coronavirus is destroyed by soap and water. Wash your hands, scrub liberally, and scrub often. Sanitizing gels with at least 60% alcohol are also effective.
- Take caution when visiting nursing homes and retirement communities, even if you feel fine. Your elders need your love now more than ever, just not your germs.
- Because first responders and medical professionals will face unprecedented challenges in the coming weeks and months. It is important to check on our elders, especially those in your neighborhood. The City will be doing everything we can to support them, but we need your help.
- Be kind to one another. Talk to your neighbors. Set up phone or texting trees. Check in with elders and families with children. If you are going to the grocery store, see if a vulnerable person on your street needs anything too, so they can avoid exposure.
- A faith community does not need to meet under a roof to remain a community. Lean on yours, for both spiritual fortification and to support others. Many churches have networks and means of caring for the vulnerable in our community that will need your service and prayers.

- Apps like NextDoor and neighborhood Facebook groups can be useful, but they can also be sources of incorrect information. Be responsible with these resources, and stay calm. Find ways to connect with those in need who may live around you, but be careful not to contribute to rumors and fearmongering.
- With schools out, please watch out for children. The parents of our community may be facing additional time at home with their kids.

Here are things that you do NOT need to worry about:

- There are no expected interruptions of our municipal water supply, and fuel supplies are not expected to be affected. We do not foresee contamination or shortages of these resources.
- City leadership has been in contact with the managers of local grocery stores and chains. After this initial surge in buying, all expect shelves to be restocked as supply chains catch up. There may not be the usual variety, but you have seen how impressively companies like H-E-B, Kroger, and Walmart have responded after hurricanes, and this crisis will be no different. The President's press conference today showed us that the heads of many of our national chains are committed to helping.
- Our parks and recreation areas will remain open for community use. However, do not gather in large groups, practice good hygiene, and let the kids run.
- Communication from city, state, and national agencies will remain available. Check in regularly at www.CityofConroe.org. Other resources include the Montgomery County Public Health District: <https://mcphd-tx.org> and the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

I have faith in this community and I have faith in God. The City is working diligently to care for the citizens of Conroe, and know the heart and strength with which our citizens always respond to adversity. We do not know what the coming days will hold, but be assured that the City is here to assist you with your questions and concerns.



Toby Powell
Mayor