



City of Falfurrias/Brooks County Emergency Management

For immediate release: March 22, 2020

Brooks County Signs Agreement with Kleberg County for COVID-19 Testing

Falfurrias Works Together to Adhere to Executive Order

Brooks County signed an agreement with Kleberg County that allows for Brooks County residents to be tested for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) at a designated regional testing center in Kingsville.

Below is the Brooks County Testing Protocol:

- 1) Stay calm and understand it is a virus. A virus cannot be treated; it has to run its course and has to allow the body to fight the effects. The populations at risk to fight the virus are the immune deficient, the very young and elderly. Be aware of shortness of breath/respiratory distress, high fever, or any life-threatening situation.
- 2) Understand that the virus is contagious. Be aware of the symptoms for you and your family. Keep a distance and stay in place as much as possible. Always keep hands clean and sanitized.
- 3) If symptoms appear:
 - a) Stay in place at home; quarantine yourself from other household members.
 - b)"contagious situation"
- 4) Call your doctor and let him/her know of symptoms. "Please do not contaminate the office." In other words, do not walk into a facility without first calling. Stay in place. If doctor is not aware, communicate that there is a regional testing center (RTC) for virus. If you do not have a doctor, call a local clinic or the hospital.
- 5) Call this number at Christus Spohn Hospital Kingsville 361-595-9746 or allow your doctor to. They have a screening interview.
- 6) At Christus Spohn Hospital Kingsville, they will determine to admit you, treat you, or send you to the Kingsville regional testing center.

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7) There is no direct access to the regional testing center. Everyone must go through Christus Spohn Hospital at 361-595-9746. An appointment is required.

8) The regional testing center will setup testing for you at Dick Kleberg Park Recreation Hall located at 501 E Escondido Rd, Kingsville.

9) After swabbing, a course of action will be provided to you.

10) Within 24 hours, the result will be received by the regional testing center and again a course of action will be determined.

11) If you test positive for the Coronavirus, please follow the action plan provided by the regional testing center and medical staff who will be assisting you.

Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order

Order No. 1: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Order No. 2: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

Order No. 3: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Order No. 4: In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

These orders took effect March 20, 2020 and will end at 11:59 PM on April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC.

This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.

For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this executive order will expire.

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Brooks County

-All courts remain closed; payments shall be accepted via phone. Essential court services such as juvenile detention hearings and protective orders will continue as needed.

-The Public Library is closed until further notice.

For more information, please call (361) 325-5604.

City of Falfurrias

-City Offices are working with a skeleton crew. The Utility Board and Municipal Court Offices are closed to the public with payments only being accepted online, via phone and by mail. Late payment fees are waived until March 25.

City Parks are closed until further notice due to groups larger than 10 congregating at the parks and in violation of the Governor's executive order.

For more information, please call (361) 325-2420.

Brooks County Independent School District

BCISD will continue in-home, student and online learning through April 3.

This **IS NOT** an extended Spring Break for families, teachers or staff to take vacation. As per the Governor's Executive Order, all school campuses are closed. BCISD staff are teleworking. This is to encourage youth and families to adhere to health officials' recommendations to, again, limit travel and exposure to large groups in a proactive effort to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

- **In-home student and online learning:** Instructional packets are available online and for pick-up at the Falfurrias High School Library.
- **Instructional support** is available via lending of technology devices including Chromebooks, Wifi Cards, as well as instructional Pre-K3, Pre-K4, kindergarten, first-through fifth-grade materials, are available for pick up from 10 a.m.-Noon March 23 at the Falfurrias High School Library (side entrance). The district will have procedures in place to exercise the 10-person group limit and social distancing.
- **Free Curbside meals**, including breakfast and hot lunch meals, will continue to be available Monday through Friday through April 3 via drive-through at the Falfurrias Junior High. Meals will also be available at the students' school bus route stops at 10 a.m. for distribution. This service is for **all youth** ages 18 and under including BCISD students and other students in the area who need assistance.

To date, there are no confirmed Coronavirus cases in Brooks County. The Emergency Management Team will continue to inform the community as updates become available.

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