



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 3, 2020**

**Nathaniel Pecina, Public Information Specialist - Ellis County TX**

(512) 507.5879

nathaniel.pecina@co.ellis.tx.us

**“Statement on COVID-19”**

While there are currently no known cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ellis County, the county’s Local Health Authority and Emergency Management will continue to monitor the outbreak closely, and are working daily with state and national health authorities on the matter.

Expert advice and protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) are being followed and passed on to local health care providers, hospitals, and school districts.

County health officials urge residents to follow advice and guidelines from the CDC and DSHS websites, including information for travelers, businesses, and healthcare providers about how the virus spreads, its symptoms, and how to protect yourself.

Health officials urge the community as a whole to practice illness prevention:

- Stay home when you feel sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Ellis County officials will continue monitoring COVID-19, and we ask that you do your part to keep our community healthy.

For more information please visit the Ellis County Website at Emergency Management - Get informed: [co.ellis.tx.us/948/2019-Novel-Coronavirus](http://co.ellis.tx.us/948/2019-Novel-Coronavirus)

Ellis County Judge & Emergency Management Director,

Todd Little