



## Bell County Public Health District

[www.bellcountyhealth.org](http://www.bellcountyhealth.org)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

Bell County Public Health District has identified the first presumptive positive case of COVID19 late last night. The case is in the process of undergoing confirmatory testing with the CDC. The individual is a 29 year old male in Belton with a travel history in Barcelona and Paris from March 4 to March 10. Bell County Public Health has initiated self-isolation protocol and contact tracing for this case. There may be more detail to share going forward and we will provide pertinent information throughout the process. We are in this together.

This puts us in Phase 2 of the Bell County plan. As a reminder that is below from the plan shared by Judge Blackburn in a press release on March 12, 2020:

#### **Stage 1 (no confirmed cases of COVID19)**

- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid contact with persons who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue away
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces with a disinfectant
- Don't travel to areas with active community spread of COVID19
- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly and use hand sanitizers with at least 60% of alcohol content when soap and water are not available

#### **Stage 2 (a confirmed case of COVID19)**

- All of Stage 1 measures
- Actively practice 'social distancing' ... whenever possible maintain 6 feet distance from other persons
- Avoid physical contact with other persons in social and workplace settings

#### **Stage 3 (community spread of COVID19)**

- All Stage 1 & Stage 2 measures



Office of the Bell County Judge

13 March 2020

**COVID19**

10:45 am, 13 March 2020.

I was informed this morning by Dr. Chadwell, Director of the Bell County Public Health District, that Bell County now has its first presumptive positive COVID19 case. The case is a 29 year old male who resides in Belton. The case appears to be travel-related.

I was also advised to treat this presumptive positive case as confirmed.

Accordingly, and effective immediately, Bell County is now at Stage 2 of our COVID19 Plan. The Plan is attached.

While I would urge all residents to remain calm, I would also urge residents to be proactive in practicing the mitigation measures that the Bell County COVID19 Action Plan recommends. Personal hygiene efforts remain among the most effective means for mitigating the spread of the virus.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Blackburn", written over a horizontal line.

D. Blackburn, County Judge