



March 20, 2020

Dear Local Resident,

As I am sure many of you are aware the Governor Greg Abbott released an Executive Order on March 19, 2020 relating to Covid-19 preparedness and mitigation. We want to explain how this works in the City of Friona and Parmer County in general. First, let us start by saying there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Parmer County. We do expect that to happen at some point and that's why we are doing everything we need to prepare now. Officials for the City of Friona and Parmer County are in constant communication with area partners on how to best prepare for this and how to best protect the residents of Parmer County.

The Executive Order from the Governor states the following conditions and restrictions will go into effect **tonight** (March 20, 2020) at **midnight** and remain in effect until April 3, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:

- 1) All Texas schools must close temporarily. This does not mean that education stops. Superintendents will continue to work with the Texas Education Agency and principals to continue online or additional educational options.
- 2) People should avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts or visiting gyms. There will be no dining at bars or restaurant dining rooms since they will be closed. Restaurants can still offer take-out, drive-thru or delivery options.
- 3) People shall not visit nursing homes, retiring centers or long-term care facilities unless they are providing critical care assistance.
- 4) Every person in Texas must avoid social gatherings that have more than 10 people.

So what does this mean for Friona? All restaurant dining rooms will be closed but you are able to get deliveries (if available), or you may go through the drive-thru or place orders to go. People cannot visit Prairie Acres Nursing Home. And finally, people may not gather in groups larger than 10.

All schools are closed as well. However, beginning March 30th, alternative learning opportunities will begin for students. Meal services will be provided through pick up only from 9-11 a.m. starting March 23rd at the Junior High Cafeteria. Throughout all this, Friona ISD will practice social distancing and compliance with all the rules. Updates can be found on the Friona ISD website.

If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, such as Cargill, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. Rest assured, Cargill has taken significant measures to reduce the impact on its employees while at work including implementing social distancing at break times, ramped up sanitation of touch point surfaces throughout the day and screening of employees who return from vacation.

This is going to be a trying time for all of us with many inconveniences. But have no doubt that we are doing everything we can to protect the residents of Parmer County.

Trey Ellis, *Parmer County Judge*
Ricky White, *Mayor of Friona*
Joe Stanton, *Mayor of Farwell*
Leander Davila, *Friona City Manager*
Cesar Marquez, *Bovina City Manager*

Jimmy Burns, *FISD Superintendent*
Gayla Quillin, *Parmer Medical Center Administrator*
Scott Pohlman, *Cargill General Manager*
John Gurley, *Emergency Management Coordinator*