

CITY OF PALACIOS

P. O. BOX 845 ★ PALACIOS, TEXAS 77465
PHONE (361) 972-3605 ★ FAX (361) 972-6555



WWW.CITYOFPALACIOS.ORG

June 17, 2020

MAYOR'S UPDATE JUNE 17, 2020

I want to bring you up-to-date concerning the recent spike in the number of reported COVID-19 cases in our County. As of Monday, June 15th, there were 93 positive cases in Matagorda County of which 52 are recovering and there were 36 active cases.

I have been asked several times, "Do we have positive cases in Palacios?" Of course, the answer is YES. Since the beginning of the pandemic we have had positive cases in Palacios. Because of personal privacy issues and federal regulations, expressly HIPPA regulations, I cannot give out the specific names or addresses of those individuals in our community that have tested positive. However, I can confirm that there are still active cases in Palacios even though our local Palacios Community Medical Center has conducted 30 tests and they have all been returned negative. Even so, the threat of the Coronavirus is still an ongoing concern for us here in Palacios.

Because of the Governor's efforts to Reopen Texas and increased testing, the number of positive results for the Coronavirus has increased. This was expected and until there is a proven and widely-available vaccine on the market, experts are saying that it is likely that we will continue to see an increase in positive cases. Over the last few months, I've heard it all. From those who think that the pandemic is not as dangerous and lethal as has been reported to those that honestly believe that the Coronavirus pandemic is some sort of worldwide hoax. I can assure you from I have personally seen that the COVID-19 virus is real and that if you think the danger has passed...you are wrong.

The number of patients seeking treatment at our local hospitals has decreased and currently, there are no patients being treated at the Matagorda Regional Medical Center or the Palacios Community Medical Center. This is the first time since the pandemic began that this is the case as far as the Regional Medical Center. The possible overwhelming of our health system has been major concern when it comes to dealing with the pandemic. Another major concern has been the protection of our most vulnerable populations – those over 65 years of age and those with underlying health issues such as a compromised immune system. I happen to be one of those people

who has a compromised immune system due to cancer treatments and I can promise you that I am following the guidelines to keep myself and those that I love safe and healthy.

The Governor's Report to Reopen Texas has begun to reopen up almost every aspect of our daily lives and his latest proclamations continue to have restrictions that emphasize the importance of minimum health standards. That is my message this today. While we are beginning to reopen our community, we must still practice those guidelines that have gotten us this far. All of us must continue to strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines which include:

- Minimize face-to-face contact with others by maintaining 6 feet separation.
- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs and other surfaces that are touched often.
- Don't share dishes, drinking glasses, cups or eating utensils with others.
- And while it is not mandatory, it is recommended that you wear a face mask if you cannot maintain the recommended 6 feet of separation when you are in public.

We are still in the grips of COVID-19 and we must remain vigilant and we must continue to do the things we need to do to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen", written in a cursive style.

Glen Smith