

Good Morning,

I'm Glen Smith, Mayor of Palacios and I wanted to take a few moments this morning to give our citizens an update of what has been happening locally and some of our plans for the immediate future.

As of 10:30 this morning there have been 4 positive results for the Corona virus at the Matagorda Regional Medical Center. 10 tests have been returned negative and 45 tests are pending at this time. At the Palacios Community Medical Center there has been one test conducted and that test has been returned negative.

Also, PCMC has opened a drive-thru screening tent located near the entrance to PCMC. I want to emphasize that this is just for screening and IS NOT a COVID-19 test. The screening protocol is guided by CDC guidelines and will help identify if you are at risk. Depending on your interview and the screening, if you are determined to need further testing you will be referred to the ER or to your personal healthcare provider. This screening tent at PCMC will be conducted for the next few days depending on demand.

The City Council of Palacios will be conducting a special meeting via Zoom teleconferencing this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. to discuss two items. Number one will be to discuss and vote on extending the City's original disaster declaration for an additional 7 days and the other will be to discuss and decide on whether or not to postpone the May 2nd city elections. This is something that Governor Abbott authorized and recommended last week. He has authorized local authorities to postpone the

May 2nd election until November 3rd and conduct the City election during the general election scheduled for that time. Because we work with the Palacios Independent School District to conduct City elections combined with PISD School Board elections, we must coordinate together and a final decision by both entities is expected this week. If the City election is postponed, it means that your current Council Members and I will remain in office for an additional 6 months to ensure continuity in conducting the business of the City. Believe me, this is not an issue that we are considering lightly.

Again, I want to commend our citizens for their conduct during these trying times. Thank you to all our restaurants and bars for adapting on such short notice and abiding by the Governor's Executive order regarding drive through and take out service only. I also want to thank our churches for curtailing services and finding innovative ways to comply with the Governor's mandate concerning confining gatherings to 10 persons or less.

And finally, I want to once again urge you to make sure and obtain your information from the most reliable sources. Sources such as the Texas Division of Emergency Management website, the CDC website, the Matagorda Emergency Operations website and Facebook page and of course our own local Palacios Beacon.

Please be assured that your City officials and staff are doing everything we can to insure the health and safety of our citizens and we will continue to do so as we go forward together during this national crisis.

Thank you and have a safe week.