

March 13, 2020

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Just after noon today, Governor Abbott signed a State Disaster Declaration in response to the Coronavirus or COVID-19. This declaration will allow cities and counties to make sure that they are able to take advantage of any and all resources that the State has available at this time.

The Governor also reported that testing for the Coronavirus is expanding at a rapid rate. It is anticipated that public health facilities will be able to test approximately 273 samples a day and that coupled with private testing facilities that number could be over 1,000 per day by next week. That being said, it is important to note that any testing will still be done following a specific procedure and criteria and by a Doctor's order. You will not be able to be tested just because you want a test done. CALL AHEAD to your normal health care provider if you feel you need to be tested and DO NOT visit the emergency room for testing or visit your healthcare provider randomly.

There is no plan to close City of Palacios facilities at this time. City Hall and other City facilities will remain open during normal business hours for the time being. This is to allow citizens to pay their utility bills, obtain permits, and otherwise conduct business with the City. However, there will be increased efforts to sanitize those facilities by vigorous use of disinfectants on all doors, counters and other surfaces that may be touched.

Again, while the spread of COVID-19 is certainly a concern, I urge our citizens to remain calm and take the common sense actions such as washing your hands, don't touch your nose and face and maintain personal space to ensure the health of yourself, your family and your fellow citizens during this time. Thank you!

Glen Smith

Mayor, Palacios