Office of the County Judge
and
Coryell County Emergency Management

For Immediate Release
March 25, 2020 – Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas -

Coryell County confirms the first positive test for COVID-19. At approximately 6:30pm on March 24, 2020, Coryell County Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Mr. Bob Harrell, was provided credible evidence that a Coryell County resident was being reported as a confirmed positive test for COVID-19. Mr. Harrell contacted State Health Officials who confirmed the information. Coryell County Health Authority, Dr. JD Sheffield, was subsequently contacted by the Texas Department of State Health Services and provided official notification.

The patient is a 55y/o female residing in Copperas Cove, Texas, and works for a long-term healthcare facility in Belton, Bell County, Texas. The positive test was conducted at Baylor Scott and White Emergency Room in Temple, Texas. The patient is currently in self isolation at her residence.

In the event you need 9-1-1 services and are presenting symptoms of COVID-19, inform the dispatcher so the emergency responders can take steps to have the appropriate protective equipment when responding to the call.

It is everyone's responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and continue to practice good hygiene by washing hands and surfaces and maintaining social distancing.

County Judge Roger A Miller issued the following statement: "We are continually assessing the threat of COVID-19 to our citizens. We will take appropriate measures, as needed, to reduce the risk of exposure to and the spreading of the COVID-19 virus. We expected to have a positive case at some point, and now we do. But it is not something to fear or cause panic. I encourage our citizens to stay within the confines of Coryell County as much as possible. If you must travel outside the County, I strongly discourage travel to Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, McLennan, Tarrant, Travis, and Williamson Counties. These counties have the highest numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19, and many of them have "shelter in place" orders. If you are traveling to or through a county with a shelter in place order, you are subject to being issued a citation if your presence or actions in that county violates their order".

More information about Coryell County services, including Emergency Management and County Disaster Declarations, may be found at https://www.coryellcounty.org.