

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2020



City of Copperas Cove

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**COVID-19, Coronavirus Information – Update #1**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020: (Update #1)**

Copperas Cove, Texas -- The City continues to monitor information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) being disseminated from various agencies to include National, State and Local. The City Leadership team comprised of Department Directors and Emergency Management continue to monitor and exchange information relevant to this situation and the well being of our community.

At this time, City services will continue uninterrupted and no City activities or events have been cancelled. Should City services change in response to the Coronavirus or the need arise to cancel any activities or events, information will be disseminated by way of available means such as City media release, social media pages, government access channel, Cove Watch, Active Net and the Code Red Emergency notification system. Citizens may sign up for Code Red by following a link on the City of Copperas Cove website: [www.copperascovetx.gov/codered](http://www.copperascovetx.gov/codered)

Currently there is no vaccine for COVID-19, so prevention is even more critical. Reducing spread will help protect our most vulnerable populations, such as seniors and those with chronic medical conditions. You can prevent the spread of coronavirus, and also the flu, by taking these steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom. Also wash them before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
  - If there's no soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces you touch often with a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is being updated on a daily basis. In order to educate yourself and to stay abreast of the most current information or if you have symptoms and need guidance, please view this website: [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov) This website contains the most current information available and provides answers to the most commonly asked questions.

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**Friday, March 6, 2020: (Initial)**

Copperas Cove, Texas – The City is monitoring information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) being disseminated from various agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public health and emergency management. The CDC has published guidance on how to prepare and take action for COVID-19, which may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html> The guidance published by the CDC is universally applicable to most communicable diseases. The CDC recommends individuals practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, stay home when sick and cover coughs and sneezes.

All City departments are appraising protocols for continuity of operations. As a medical provider, Copperas Cove EMS responses will follow guidelines from the CDC, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and our emergency services policies.

The City has not been notified of suspected or confirmed cases of Coronavirus infections in Central Texas. Citizens are encouraged to not panic in any situation, continue good personal and family hygiene practices, monitor official government communications and media reports, and continue with normal daily activities until otherwise notified.

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