



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Cooke County, the City of Gainesville, NTMC, Muenster Memorial Hospital, all local school districts, all municipalities and community partners continue to coordinate efforts to respond to the everchanging coronavirus pandemic. Both Cooke County and the City of Gainesville have declared Public Health Emergency Declarations.

Cooke County Commissioners Court on Monday agreed to extend the Public Health Emergency Declaration signed on March 17, 2020 by Judge Brinkley, with some slight modifications to bring it in line with the Governor's Declaration signed on March 19, 2020. Those restrictions include:

Every person shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

People shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

People shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

Schools shall temporarily close.

Additionally effective after 11:59pm on March 24, 2020, Cooke County ordered that individuals cannot occupy nor can individuals be permitted to occupy the following: hair and nail salons, barber shops, estheticians and related personal care businesses, spas, massage parlors, tattoo, piercing parlors, tanning salons, and gymnasiums.

Many local schools will continue to provide meals to students in a safe manner. Please check with your local school district to find out more information.

A medical tent is being set up behind North Texas Medical Center to accommodate an expected increased demand for hospital and emergency room traffic. COVID-19 testing is being completed in Cooke County at a consolidated site and in coordination with local medical providers and hospitals. People should contact their primary care physician if they think they have the virus and want to be tested.

The City of Gainesville, in cooperation with local entities, is hosting a Gainesville Area Emergency Blood Drive to help boost the local blood supply. The drive will be held Friday, March 27 from 9:00am to 2:00 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center, 311 S Weaver, in the south parking lot. The drive will be by appointment only and the buses will have no more than 8 people on the bus at a time. For more information or to schedule an appointment time, visit the City of Gainesville Facebook event

or contact Morgan Tobias at Morgan@gainesvillecofc.com. For information on donor eligibility and appointments, call or text 800-366-2834 or visit carterbloodcare.org.

Cooke County and the City of Gainesville have established a Unified Command structure to more efficiently deal with the pandemic as the situation evolves.

All local entities are strongly encouraging compliance with the social distancing orders and to follow CDC guidelines.