

Washington County, Texas Joint Information Center (JIC) Video Update 5-8-2020

Video location: https://youtu.be/ZbEH_oifOR8

Judge John Durrenberger: "Hello Washington County. I hope this finds everyone well. I want to give a brief update on the drive through testing that we've done for the COVID-19 virus. We had the drive through testing at the Washington County Fairgrounds this last Sunday. We had 108 people come through for the testing. It went very very well, very smooth, very well organized. We do not have the test results as yet, we expect those any day. They told us it would normally take 5 to 7 days to get those tests back because there are a lot of these testings going on in the state right now, so the testing centers are kind of bogged down. Also, yesterday, Thursday we had another drive through testing. The same set up, same thing. We were allowed to have 60 people come through and we had 52 people signed up before 8:00 yesterday morning. They were coming through pretty rapidly, so we know that went very well also. So the testing has been done. We don't know that we'll have another opportunity to test like that again, but we'll have to wait and see on that. I also want to give an update on the re-opening of the county offices (facilities). The courthouse and the facilities, as you know, have been shut down to the public, except for essential services, for the past 8 weeks. However, beginning this coming Monday, we will begin slowly re-opening, slowly and cautiously, re-opening our offices. The courthouse will again, only be accessed by the west door, that being the Park Street door. Anyone needing to come for essential services can come to that door and you will be screened by some very simple questions about how likely you have been exposed or not exposed to the coronavirus. If you are admitted to the courthouse, you'll be required to wear a mask, so please bring your mask with you. Also, if you are admitted or if you come, do not bring people who are non-essential to your transaction. Other family members, friends and so forth. We are not totally opening the courthouse or county offices just to everyone. Only those who are required to be here, whether it be for a birth certificate or a marriage license or title transfer on vehicles, anything like that. You would be admitted, but there again is up to the official running that office whether or not you are admitted. Whether or not it is essential services that are required. And again, we request that you bring a mask with you to wear. You will not be allowed in the courthouse or other county offices without a mask. And one more request, please do not bring people who are non-essential to your transaction with you. So that's what I have today, so I thank you very much and stay safe."

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.: "We want to bring you some of the positive things that are happening during this time. The city is trying to get most of their operations back to normal, but we will have to do that in stages. Our library resumed revised operations this week. They will be having time for people to use the computers. They will be having people make reservations to come in and check out books. Other operations such as this, they will be announcing those shortly. The Blue Bell Aquatic Center is attempting to work out an arrangement whereby they will re-open on May 18th. It will be somewhat reduced, in the sense that they will not be having the larger crowds that they had. The therapy pool, as well as the larger pool, will be open but they will probably have to have reservations in order to use the lap pool as well as the therapy pool. June 1st is the time they've set for trying to get the leisure pool,

which is outside, open and that again will have to be under the conditions that they have at the time. Our visitor center is open. It re-opened on May 1st, and they have provided for necessary sanitation and sanitized equipment as visitors come in and meet with them. Our parks are open. They have continued to be open. The restrooms have only been opened where people are having activities, such as the pickle ball and tennis courts. The sports competition fields, basketball courts, kitchens, carousel, playgrounds and all other sports buildings are closed at this time. We will open those as conditions permit. The city hall and animal services will be open with modified hours beginning on June 1. Again, we will do everything we can to protect our employees as well as the public coming to use them. For the recreation, for this summer, our staff is beginning to plan, attempting to arrange activities for the children during the summer months. And of course, the Brenham police and fire departments are going on as usual, as they have during this whole time. They have taken necessary precautions of their own to protect the officers, as well as the public coming to see them or out in the public. These are just some of the things the city's doing and we hope that we will continue to operate, hopefully with a more wide opening concept in the future, but for now we will just have to go in stages. Thank you for listening today. One thing that all of us need to remember and realize is that we still need to use our masks when we're out in public, as well as social distancing. This according to the doctors will help prevent the spread of the disease or at least cut it back. So when you're out in public, wherever it is, wear your mask as well as keep distance from people at least 6 feet. Thank you.”

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