



NEWS RELEASE

For media inquiries, contact: Nick Wolda
nwolda@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, March 21, 2020

Township Chairman Gordy Bunch Addresses the Community

Township Chairman Gordy Bunch addressed the community in a video from the Township Board Chambers, giving an encouraging and inspiring message that we can get through this together. [View video](#). The link directs to the video on Facebook, but you do not need to log in or have an account to view it.

The Woodlands Township looks to technology to hold meeting electronically

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors will hold its first ever public meeting via videoconference this Wednesday, March 25, 2020 with a scheduled time to begin at 6 p.m. Central Daylight Time. The meeting can be viewed online at <http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/778/Meeting-Videos>

"The Woodlands Township Board of Directors is committed and here to help our residents and business," said Chairman Gordy Bunch. "We are fortunate and blessed to have incredible support by our directors and staff to help continue meeting, in an innovative way, as we need to take care of our community."

Participation by members of the public in open meetings of the Board of Directors is welcomed and encouraged, Chairman Bunch said. During the March 25, 2020, videoconference Board meeting, members of the public may provide public comment by calling 877-853-5247 (toll-free), then enter ID 966 224 808 #. Calls will be taken in the order the calls are received and only during the "public comment" agenda item. This phone number is active only for the March 25, 2020 Board meeting. New phone numbers will be issued for each future meeting during the public health pandemic emergency.

See full news release at The Woodlands Township website.

The Woodlands Children's Museum

In light of recommendations to practice social distancing, the recent announcement regarding mass gatherings and with the extended school closures, The Woodlands Children's Museum will be extending its closing through Friday, April 10, 2020, with a temporary determination to open Tuesday, April 14, 2020. With great team enthusiasm and collaboration, the staff at the museum have used this time to disinfect and thoroughly clean from the front door to the back door, eagerly awaiting the ability to reopen.

Texas News

As of Friday, March 20, 2020, State Representative Steve Toth has advised that Governor Abbott has clarified that **there will be no shelter in place order in Texas**. The Texas National Guard is **not** being deployed to enforce a quarantine.

State Senator Brandon Creighton reports there is some good news--today, Governor Abbott announced that U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has included Texas in its Emergency Injury Disaster Declaration. This action will provide long-term, low-interest loans to small businesses in southeast Texas and across the state. Below is a link to the application that you need to fill out. Additionally, the federal reserve has slashed rates to 0%, a historic low. If you have lost your job due to the Covid 19 outbreak, the Texas Workforce Commission has waived the waiting period to apply for unemployment benefits. A link to the Texas Workforce Commission application is here: <https://twc.texas.gov/news/covid-19-resources-job-seekers>

Montgomery and Harris Counties publish COVID-19 Telephone Numbers

Montgomery County has opened a new COVID-19 Call Center at 936-523-3916. Harris County residents may call Harris County Public Health at 832-927-7575 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day, or Ask My Nurse at 713-634-1110.



Township Emphasizes the Importance of Social Distancing

Social distancing is a set of actions intended to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease. The objective of social distancing is to reduce the probability of contact between persons carrying an infection, and others who are not infected, so as to minimize disease transmission, morbidity and ultimately, mortality.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING
KEEPS US SAFER**

As we navigate this difficult time, The Woodlands Township encourages residents to observe CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety.

- Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. If you are sick, please contact your healthcare provider **BEFORE** going to their office.
- Postpone all non-essential appointments. **Work remotely** if possible.
- Utilize grocery delivery or pick-up if possible.
- Limit close contact while in public and **wash your hands** often.
- Keep a **6 foot distance** from others when on walks or in public.

When in doubt: Stay home as much as possible and limit your person-to-person interactions.

Stay informed at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19

The Township Board of Directors has closed the Township parks system and the placement of signage at all parks as a precaution to the coronavirus outbreak. Township law enforcement resources will only be used to enforce park closure rules for large groups that are blatantly in violation of the most recent Montgomery County and Harris County Orders regarding gatherings at public facilities. We strongly encourage residents to abide by CDC guidance during this crisis.

Questions About Water: An Important Message from The Woodlands Water Agency

Water in The Woodlands continues to be certified by the State of Texas as a “Superior Water System” and is safe to drink.

The Woodlands Farmer’s Market and Grogan’s Mill Village Center

At this time, closing the market temporarily is the best course of action due to the heightened concern of the Coronavirus. Please follow the Market’s [Facebook page](#) for updates, Many of the stores and restaurants in the Grogan’s Mill shopping center, where The Woodlands Farmer’s Market normally takes place, remain open, including the restaurants which are open for pickup or delivery only. For more information, please visit the merchants’ Facebook page at [GMV Merchant's Association](#).



Dine out without dining in!

Visit The Woodlands, the destination marketing organization for The Woodlands, is actively compiling and updating a list of local restaurants offering delivery or curbside pick-up. View and share the growing list of restaurants here: www.visitthewoodlands.com/eatlocal. If you aren't currently listed and would like to be, [fill out the form here](#) and we'll add it! If you're already listed on this page and need it to be updated or have a menu changed, please email amber.george@visitthewoodlands.com.

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

Waste Management is continuing to operate all curbside collection and Recycle Center services as normal. No interruptions to the standard schedule have occurred. Due to heavy volume, your collection may occur at a different time of day than usual. Please Note: Waste Management Call Center staff are transitioning to work-at-home for their health and safety. Until this transition is complete, please report a missed pickup, bulk pickup request, or other concern by emailing to cssatex@wm.com. Be sure to provide your name, address, village, regular service date, and the nature of your request.

The Township's Coronavirus page

The Woodlands Township has launched a special COVID-19 information page that can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19. This page includes the latest news from The Township, updates from partner agencies, social distancing strategies, important links, frequently asked questions, live Twitter feeds and more and is being updated frequently. Please check back often.



Stay Connected

Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed.

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY as of Saturday, March 21, 2020

Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management, can confirm Montgomery County's 13th positive case of COVID-19. She is a woman in her 30s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County. She is in isolation at home. She has no recent travel history.

Here are updates on Montgomery County's current cases:

Case # 1 - A man in his 40s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County, is still hospitalized. He remains in critical condition, but he is stable and showing some improvement. As a result of our investigation, we do believe he contracted the virus as a result of community spread. (reported 03/10/2020)

Case # 2 - A woman, in her 40s, who resides in Southeast Montgomery County. She remains in a hospital in Harris County, in critical condition. Her only travel was to New Orleans. (reported 3/12/2020)

Case # 3 - A man, in his 40s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County. He is at home, recovering well. His only travel was to Florida. (reported 3/12/2020)

Case # 4 - A woman, in her 40s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County. She remains at home, doing well. Her case is connected to Case # 3. (reported 3/14/2020)

Case # 5 - A man, in his 50s, who resides in Southwest Montgomery County. He is in isolation in his home. The man has recently traveled to California. (reported 3/17/2020)

Case # 6 - A man, in his 40s, who resides in Southwest Montgomery County. At this time, he is in isolation in his home. The man has recently traveled to California. (reported 3/18/2020)

Case # 7 - A woman, in her 60s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County. At this time, she is in isolation in her home. She has no recent travel history, and no known contact with other patients. (reported 3/18/2020)

Case # 8 - A woman, in her 40s, who resides in Southeast Montgomery County. At the time, she is in isolation in her home. She has recently traveled to Germany. (reported 3/19/2020)

Case # 9 - A man, in his 50s, who resides in Southwest Montgomery County. He is currently hospitalized in critical but stable condition. His travel history is under investigation. (reported 3/19/2020)

Case # 10 - A woman in her 50s, who resides in Southeast Montgomery County. She is in isolation at home. She did attend the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo on Sunday, March 8th. (reported 3/20/2020)

Case # 11 - A man in his 90s, who resides in Southwest Montgomery County. He is currently hospitalized. He has no recent travel history. (reported 3/20/2020)

Case # 12 - A man in his 50s, who resides in Southwest Montgomery County. He is in isolation



at home. He recently traveled to Brazil. (reported 3/20/2020)

Case # 13 – A woman in her 30s, who resides in Northwest Montgomery County. She is in isolation at home. She has no recent travel history. (reported 3/21/2020)

The current CDC recommendation is that the majority of people who contract this virus can successfully recover at home. If you start experiencing symptoms which include coughing, fever and shortness of breath, and they become severe – contact your healthcare provider. The CDC believes that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

Tips for the general public:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For more information, please see <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.

Harris County Coronavirus Information

Harris County currently has 39 cases. More information is available here

<http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/notifyme.