



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

CITY STATUS: LEVEL 1

Dear Citizens of the City of Harlingen,

The City of Harlingen continues to actively monitor the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation in conjunction with County, State, and federal authorities. As always, the safety of our citizens, staff, and families remains a top priority, and we will act with an abundance of caution to protect everyone's health and well being.

The City of Harlingen is currently operating at **LEVEL 1** as detailed in the accompanying chart. Adjustments to this chart may be made, as we deem appropriate.

Much is being learned about this newly emerged disease. CDC and the State Health Department recommend that local communities take the same basic preventative measures to protect against COVID-19 as we take to avoid the spread of common respiratory illnesses, like the cold and flu:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick and do not return to work or school
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue (not your hands)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

City of Harlingen staff is working proactively by increasing sanitizing and disinfecting procedures to high traffic, high touch areas, such as door handles.

In situations like these, rumors may cause unnecessary reactions and panic. Therefore, we encourage you get information from credible sources. The Texas Department of State Health Services has a webpage with updates, key messages, frequently asked questions, travel advisories, and more at:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/>.

Should you need specific information about COVID-19, please access: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

| LEVEL 1 (Actively, Monitoring – No reported cases in Cameron, Willacy, or Hidalgo Counties) | LEVEL 2 (Cases in either Cameron, Willacy, or Hidalgo Counties, but not within the City of Harlingen) | LEVEL 3 (Confirmed cases amongst residents, students and or staff within the City of Harlingen) |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent cleaning of common areas including door hardware, lobby sitting areas, etc. • Educate citizens, staff, and families on respiratory etiquette and universal precautions • Continue to monitor and communicate with Cameron County Health Department • Communicate to citizens and staff if sick stay home. • Cancel city-related out of state travel for staff until further notice • Continue reviewing Infectious Disease Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes all Level 1 actions • Increase cleaning efforts to include scheduled hand washing for all staff • Limit all unnecessary travel • Limit large gatherings to only essential events or postpone essential events as recommended by the CDC • Potentially limit/restrict outside visitors/guests • Implement social distancing as appropriate • Increase frequency of communication with local and federal health agencies • Review policies and guidelines • Review contingency and continuation plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially cancel building rentals and all city events (concerts, meetings, gatherings, etc.) • Potentially cancel all city, and staff travel • Potentially close city non-essential facilities in consultation with Cameron County Health Department • In the event of city department closures, communicate to citizens the extent of closures and length • In the event of city non-essential offices, and department closures, communicate to staff which staff members are to report to duty at the EOC to maintain services • Perform a deep cleaning to all city areas |