



### **Lavaca County reports sixth case of COVID-19**

Lavaca County is reporting the sixth case of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, in a City of Shiner, Texas resident. This case is considered “person-to-person spread”, as this particular individual came in close contact with another confirmed COVID patient. The individual is currently isolating at home.

Given the increases in community spread throughout the United States, all individuals are at some risk of exposures to COVID-19. Everyone should monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19, practice social distancing, and stay home if they become sick, except to seek necessary medical care. The Texas Department of State Health Services is supporting Lavaca County in identifying any close contacts of the patient, so they can be isolated, monitored for symptoms, and quickly tested, if needed.

Egon Barthels, Emergency Management Coordinator for Lavaca County says, “As we look to the governor’s office on guidance on phase one of reopening Texas, we must also be mindful of continuing the additional safety precautions as we have been doing over the past month, such as washing hands and voluntarily wearing masks, and so on.” Barthels goes on to say, “We must all work together for ourselves, our family, and our friends, to continue to slow the spread in Lavaca County.”

For additional information and updates about COVID-19 that are directly related to Lavaca County, please visit [co.lavaca.tx.us](http://co.lavaca.tx.us) and like and follow Lavaca County, Texas Office of Emergency Management on Facebook.

There are things everyone can do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 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 wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Minimizing exposure is especially important for people who are 65 or older or who have an underlying health condition like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or cancer. People in those groups have a higher risk of developing severe disease if they do get COVID-19, and the safest thing for them during an outbreak will be to stay home as much as possible and minimize close contact with other people. To get ready, they should talk to their doctor about getting additional prescription medications and have enough household items and groceries on hand to stay home as needed.

You can find up-to-date coronavirus information at [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus). If you have questions about COVID-19, call 2-1-1 option 6.

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