

Due to some concerns expressed by individuals, we wanted to release this statement updating everyone on the Covid-19 situation in Muleshoe and Bailey County. As everyone has seen, the number of positive Covid-19 cases in Bailey County has continued to slowly rise. This is something that was expected and something that local officials have been preparing to handle for months. Since the first positive case, local county and city officials have been implementing plans put in place well before our first case. These plans were developed by local officials in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Governor's Office. There have been many questions about what these plans entail, and we wanted to give you some of that information.

When a person is tested for Covid-19 they are required to isolate until they receive their results. If someone tests positive, they too are required to isolate until they are considered recovered and released by the DSHS. If someone awaiting test results, or who has tested positive, needs food or medication, it is delivered to their house to avoid any possible exposures to the public. Our contact tracing teams are in constant communication with the isolated individuals to help them through this process.

Immediately when someone tests positive, our contact tracing teams make contact and explain how the isolation works and answers any questions they might have. Additionally, these tracing teams begin tracing any contacts they have had that could have resulted in others being exposed. If someone has been exposed, they too are then isolated until such time as they can be tested or released per DSHS protocols.

If you hear about businesses temporarily closing, or conducting additional cleaning, this is being done out of an abundance of caution and does not necessarily mean that the public was placed at risk. Such decisions are made jointly with the business. However, if through the investigation it is determined that there was a high risk of exposure at a local business, that could have resulted in members of the public being exposed, that information is released to the public. This is why information was released regarding Track Dairy and Cargill in earlier cases. Since that time, we have been able to determine the source of new cases and determined that there were no new locations where the public had a high risk of exposure.

As testing increases and our contact tracing teams continue to investigate, we do expect that there will be additional positive cases. When that happens, those too will be investigated to determine who else might have been exposed. We will continue to release updated numbers of tested, positive, and recovered cases. Please understand that just because you are not hearing updates on every case and where it originated, these cases are being vigorously investigated, everything that can be done to protect the public is being done. We ask everyone to continue to follow social distancing and other guidelines released by local and state officials and thank you for your understanding.