

As I am sure many of you are aware the Governor Greg Abbott today released an Executive Order relating to Covid-19 preparedness and mitigation. We want to explain how this works in conjunction with the City of Muleshoe and Bailey County Emergency Declarations. First, let us start by saying there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Bailey County. We do expect that to happen at some point and that why we are doing everything we need to prepare now. Officials for the City of Muleshoe and Bailey County are in constant communication with each other including representatives of Muleshoe Area Medical Center, Bailey County EMS, Bailey County Sherriff's Office, Muleshoe Police Department, Muleshoe Fire Department, Muleshoe ISD, and the Texas Department of Public Safety on how to best prepare for this and how to best protect the citizens of Bailey County.

The Executive Order from the Governor supersedes the declarations from both the City of Muleshoe and Bailey County because, it is more restrictive. Under the new executive order the following conditions and restrictions will go into effect tomorrow night **(March 20, 2020) at midnight:**

- 1) All Texas schools must close temporarily. This does not mean that education stops. Superintendents will continue to work with the Texas Education Agency to continue online or additional educational options.
- 2) People should avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts or visiting gyms. There will be no dining at bars or restaurant dining rooms since they will be closed. Restaurants can still offer take-out options.
- 3) People shall not visit nursing homes, retiring centers or long-term care facilities unless they're providing critical care assistance.
- 4) Every person in Texas must avoid social gatherings that have more than 10 people.

So what does this mean for Muleshoe?? All bars and restaurant dining rooms will be closed but you are able to get deliveries (if available), or you may go through the drive thru or place orders to go. All schools are closed as well. People can not visit Parkview Nursing home. And finally, people may not gather in groups larger than 10. This is more restrictive than the prior Bailey County and City of Muleshoe Declarations which had limited groups to 50.

This is going to be a trying time for all of us with many inconveniences. But have no doubt that we are doing everything we can to protect the citizens of Bailey County.

Cliff Black, Mayor of Muleshoe

Leann Gallman, Muleshoe City Manager

Sherri Harrison, Bailey County Judge

Jackie Claborn, Bailey County Attorney

3/19/2020

Posted 5:25 PM