COVID-19

Response and Continuity of Operations Plan

Fannin County, TX

for July 19, 2022

(This report can change daily)

Public Health Report

- For the most up to date statistics in Texas, please visit:
  https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/45e18cba105c478697c76acbbf86a6bc

Emergency Declaration

- Fannin County has issued a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency to help lower the curve of infection and to protect our citizens.
- Texas is currently under a State of Disaster Proclamation by Governor Abbot.

Individual Business Operations

- As of August 3, 2021, Fannin County is following Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-13, GA-38, GA-39 and GA-40.

County and Court Operations

336th District Court and County Court at Law Covid-19 Operating Plan: Click Here

Governor Abbott's Executive Order or any Shelter in Place Order DOES NOT affect child custody orders regarding access and possession of children by trial court such as the 336th District Court and the County Court at Law. Local standing order addressing this is on file with the Fannin County District Clerk and on the Fannin County Website.

- On March 31, 2020 action was taken by the Fannin County Commissioners Court to approve H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), regarding paid sick leave for county employees who qualify. The FFCRA Eligibility, Rights and Responsibilities Form available in the Auditor's office shall be filled out for those who want to participate.
- On March 31, 2020 action was taken by the Fannin County Commissioners Court to name all Fannin County employees as essential.
- On April 7, 2020 and May 12, 2020 action was taken by the Fannin County Commissioners Court to allow employees who are at high risk to work from home if possible.
- On May 12, 2020, the Fannin County Commissioners Court voted to approve having all employees return to their offices to work.
- On July 7, 2020, Commissioners Court approved the following guidelines per Governor Abbott's GA-29: Unless separated by a partition, County employees must wear a face covering when face to face with the public where social distancing cannot be maintained or when entering a public space. A face covering is not required to be worn at the employee's individual desk if the public is not present and social distancing can be maintained.

- On May 25, 2021 Commissioners Court voted to follow Governor Abbott's GA-36 which prohibits mandating the use of face coverings.
- On August 3, 2021 Commissioners Court voted to follow Governor Abbott's GA-38 which rescinds all previous Covid-19 related Executive Orders except GA-13 and GA-37.
- On August 24, 2021, Commissioners Court voted to remove the Families First Coronavirus Response Act regarding sick leave as the Act had already expired.
- On August 24, 2021, Commissioners Court voted to allow the continuation of Administrative Leave if an employee has contracted Covid-19.
- On August 31, 2021 Commissioners Court voted to follow Governor Abbott's GA-39 regarding vaccine and mask mandates.
- On October 19, 2021 Commissioners Court voted to follow Governor Abbott's GA-40 regarding prohibition of any vaccine mandate.
- On January 4, 2022 Commissioners Court voted to follow updated CDC Guidelines to reduce quarantine length of time from 10 days to 5 days.
- On July 19, 2022, Commissioners Court voted unanimously to discontinue paid leave for Covid-19.
- On July 19, 2022 336th District Court Orders regarding masks and jury trials were removed from the Response Plan.

County Closures & Cancellations

- All updates will be posted on the Fannin County website: co.fannin.tx.us.

Actions and Response relating to Commissioners Court:

The Fannin County Commissioners Court is continuing to hold meetings in person as well as via teleconference until further notice. Information for each meeting will be placed on the agenda for that week which is available on the County website: www.co.fannin.tx.us.

Prevention:

There are simple steps everyone can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like 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 of at least 60% alcohol often
- 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 throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Links / Resources

What to expect from your doctor:

If Mild Symptoms:
- Ask patient to stay home and monitor their temperature and respiratory condition
- Check back with the office in 24 hours if the symptoms remain mild
- If the symptoms worsen rapidly, contact a hospital ER
- Give patient the DSHS state Coronavirus website: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/ and state Coronavirus Call Center @ 1-877-570-9779

If Moderate Symptoms:
- Ask patient to come to office for evaluation
- Mark schedule clearly as a potential viral patient
- When patient arrives at clinic, ask if it is possible to wait in their car until it's time to be seen
- If patient enters the clinic, sequester them immediately to a side of the waiting room, hand them a paper towel and ask them to cough/sneeze with caution
- Take temperature immediately

Make sure that these patients do not mingle with other patients in waiting room. Each of these patients should have their temperature taken as soon as possible either in their car or in the sequestered area inside the clinic.

If Severe Symptoms:

- Ask patient to directly contact a hospital ER to inquire what they should do, i.e., what is the hospital's present policy on possible coronavirus infection
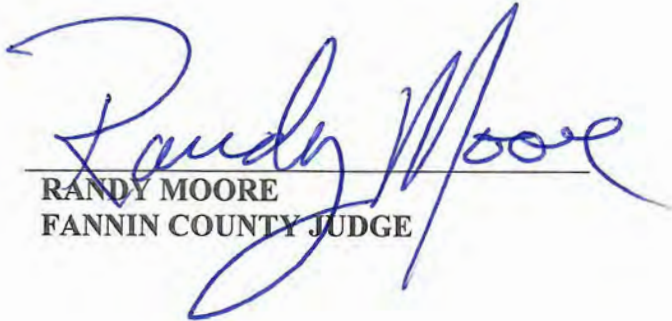- Have numbers of the closest hospital's Emergency Rooms and give them to the patients

If Other Questions:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted guidance on what to do if you get sick at https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html

The Texas DSHS State Coronavirus website: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/

This plan, dated July 19, 2022 supersedes any previous guidance.

Adopted this 19th day of January 2022.

RANDY MOORE
FANNIN COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Tammy Biggar, Fannin County Clerk

ATTACHMENT A

FANNIN COUNTY - COVID-19 EXPOSURE AND RETURN TO WORK GUIDELINES

	SCENARIO		PROTOCOL
1.	My employee tested positive for COVID-19.		Consider a deep cleaning of the workspace. Fannin County follows the CDC quarantine recommendations. If an employee has tested positive for COVID-19: • Stay home for 5 days. • If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to work. • A mask should be worn around others for 5 additional days. *If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*
	How do I pay them while they are absent?		Employees shall use any available sick time, vacation time, or comp time the employee has on their books regarding County payroll.
	What about my other employees?		The coworkers may continue working while monitoring symptoms daily and it is recommended that a mask be worn around others for 10 days.
2.	Can I measure my employees' temperature as a daily precautionary measure? (The CDC considers any body temperature of 100.4 or greater to be a fever.)		Yes. Because the CDC and State/local health authorities have acknowledged community spread of COVID-19, employers may measure employees' body temperature. As with all medical information, the fact that an employee had a fever or other symptoms would be subject to ADA confidentiality requirements. If the employee's body temperature does not decline as a result of retaking it or cooling off, you should ask them to seek medical attention.
3.	An employee self-reported that they came into close contact with someone who is symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do?		As with any other contagious illness, it is recommended that the employee keep others safe by wearing a mask for 10 days while monitoring symptoms. If the employee continues working, they should monitor symptoms daily and the Supervisor should make daily inquiries to those employees using a Covid-19 checklist sheet (attached). If the employee is sent home or chooses to not work, please see scenario #1 above regarding pay.
	How do I pay them while they are absent? ("Close contact" means that the employee has been within 6 feet of an infected or symptomatic person for at least 15 minutes.)		If working from home, the time is coded as Regular hours. However, if telework is not possible, please refer to Scenario #1 above regarding pay.
4.	My employee was in close contact with someone who has been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient (second-degree contact). Example: Employee's spouse was in contact with person who tested positive. What should I do?		Your employee may continue working unless they or their close contact becomes symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19. You may consider allowing the employee to telework for 5 days. If the close contact of the employee becomes symptomatic or tests positive (Ex: Spouse), please see scenario #3 for instruction.

Fannin County Daily Covid-19 Checklist

If still working, these questions should be asked by the Supervisor on a daily basis for at least 5 days if an employee was in close contact with a positive or symptomatic case of Covid-19 and was not wearing a mask or social distancing.

Do you have or have you had any of the following within the last 24 hours:

☐ Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher (without taking any fever reducing medications)

☐ Chills or feeling feverish

☐ New, uncontrolled cough

☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

☐ Loss of sense taste or smell

☐ Sore Throat

☐ Significant fatigue, muscle or body aches

☐ New onset of severe headache, especially with fever

☐ Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain