

Kendall County COVID-19 Response

Update from Judge Darrel Lux

MARCH 26, 2020 – For nearly two weeks, your local leaders from Kendall County, the City of Boerne, the City of Fair Oaks Ranch, Boerne ISD, and Comfort ISD, along with numerous other public and private entities have been working together to determine the appropriate response to the COVID-19 crisis. This led me to issue a Declaration of Local Disaster on March 16, 2020, which was later updated on March 19, 2020 to include further limitations that abide by the Governor's orders.

On March 23, Commissioners Court continued the Declaration through April 3, without any additional restrictions or limitations, but did include the penalty should any of the orders of the Declaration be violated. The Declaration issued by me and Commissioners' Court does not include all of the restrictions in the Declaration issued by Mayor Handren for the City of Boerne. The order that I issued and was later continued, follows Governor Abbott's executive order and the CDC guidelines. This does not mean that further restrictions will not be put in place in the future should the need arise. We are constantly monitoring the situation.

I urge the citizens of Kendall County to be responsible in their actions and to use common sense. Also, practice good judgement if you have traveled to other countries, states, or portions of Texas that would pose an increased risk of exposure to the virus. The median age of the population in Kendall County is higher than the median age of Texas and the US, so it is even more important that we consider the at-risk population that we could be exposing to COVID-19.

While the County offices have remained opened, significant measures have been put in place to limit exposure for our employees and the public. During operating hours, the public may only enter the courthouse through the entrance that faces Saunders Street, they are screened and there is a sanitizing station. Many of our offices are operating behind locked doors and are requesting to be contacted via phone, email or by appointment only. In addition, to assist our employees in managing their day to day lives dealing with COVID-19, all employees will be granted additional hours of temporary emergency sick leave to utilize for child care, to assist in working split shifts or alternate work days and to take care of all matters related to managing with COVID-19. We are an essential entity and will remain open in a limited capacity, but I encourage you to call or email rather than coming in if at all possible.

For information on the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit our website www.co.kendall.tx.us or the Kendall County Emergency Management Facebook page. You can also email the County with specific questions you may have about COVID-19 at COVID-19@co.kendall.tx.us.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeff Fincke for the fantastic job he is doing as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Kendall County. Jeff is the lead in assessing potential dangers and is a major participant in creating our action plan to minimize the infection rate in Kendall County. He stays in contact with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC). STRAC is designated by the DSHS to implement and maintain our region's emergency healthcare system. Jeff is instrumental in keeping me and other local leaders up to speed and informed in this ever-changing situation. We appreciate his service to Kendall County.

All of your local leaders are dedicated to stopping the spread of this virus, while keeping our community strong and unified. We need your help! Please, follow the CDC guidelines, wash your hands, stay home if you're sick and avoid unnecessary travel. Together we can STOP THE SPREAD.