



MAYOR'S MESSAGE FOR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

As everyone knows, we are all experiencing unique times. The effects of the COVID-19 virus have now hit home and the City of Bedford and Tarrant County have been forced to take extreme measures to get out ahead of the potential impact to our community. After numerous conversations, and in heeding the advice of health care professionals, Bedford has issued an Executive Order asking all residents with non-essential business to Stay at Home. The decision to do so has not been taken lightly and the language in this Order has been carefully crafted. As an organization, it is not our desire use this measure to impugn one's civil liberties. But rather, it is the duty of your government to set standards in place to protect the health and welfare of the community. This means the entire community.

I want to take this opportunity to let you know that your City is ready to step up to the task. Your City will see that you continue to receive the water and sewer services that you are used to. Your City will continue to patrol the streets and look after your public safety. Your City will continue to respond to 911 calls and other emergencies. These will remain our priorities as we begin operating in this new, and temporary environment.

We ask for your patience as the health and safety of our community and staff becomes our priority. We do not know how long this will last. As we focus on these changes, other non-essential services may be impacted. Again, please be patient. We will get to everything but as our priorities have changed, so too has the demand on these essential services. Our public safety personnel have seen a dramatic increase in call volume. This increase further taxes our abilities, forcing us to deal with the escalation, and no way to increase our manpower. I plead with you to be smart. Do not call 911 unless it is truly an emergency. Only you can make that determination.

Although the City, County, and State take steps to limit exposure to this virus, it is still up to everyone to be smart and to use common sense in our daily lives. No government can prevent any single person from getting sick. But as individuals, you and I, can take steps to limit our exposure. The City of Bedford will not be instituting martial law. We will not arrest you for leaving the house. But again, we beg you to be smart. If you need to leave the house, for whatever reason, please do not congregate in groups. Maintain a 6-foot social distance with others. Wash your hands frequently. Disinfect surfaces that are touched often. Avoid contact with people who are sick. This is all common sense.

This is a rapidly changing environment. The City will continue to provide you updates. Please look for my daily Mayor's Message and the latest COVID-19 information on the City's website and social media pages. As of this this moment, we

are blessed that there has not been a positive test for any Bedford resident. This is likely to change. Although we are likely to learn of friends and family members who may become affected by this virus, there is no need to panic. There is no need to hoard paper supplies and water. Don't stock up on meat, produce and dairy items only to let it go to waste. Our stores continue to restock as a normal course of business. The supply is catching up.

Lastly, don't fall prey to the sensationalism of the national news pundits. We just need to be smart about our actions and we will all get through this together. I am so encouraged by the actions of our community. I continue to hear stories of people helping people. HEB ISD is finding new ways to reach and educate our kids. Our non-profits are helping to house and feed the less fortunate. I see more and more videos online of people adjusting and making the most of this situation. And, there have been numerous stories of neighbors helping neighbors.

I want to say thank you to City Council and to Staff for how you have responded to this situation. Thank you to our first responders who risk their lives every day to protect every one of us. I would also like to extend my thanks to Judge Whitely, the Tarrant County Public Health team, and to the other area mayors for their leadership. Thank you Steve Chapman and HEB ISD, to Fraser Hay with HEB Mid Cities, and to all our local health care professionals. The sun is going to come up tomorrow and as it does, you can be assured that the City of Bedford is already hard at work, taking care of business. Your City stands ready for the task at hand.