



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, March 15, 2020

COURTNEY SHARP
CITY MANAGER

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Statement from Mayor Patrick Payton

It is a severe understatement to say we are in a challenging season here in the Permian Basin. But while we are indeed in unprecedented territory what is not in question is the concern, planning and readiness of all involved in addressing the challenges. Allow me to address a few issues in hopes of alleviating some worry amidst anxious times.

Coronavirus Readiness:

Upon my invitation, all parties needing to be involved in strategic discussions throughout the city and county gathered on March 4th to compare notes and facts and outline response clarity. At the time of this release we still have no confirmed cases nor has any testing been administered for the coronavirus. As well, we continue to remind people to remain calm and follow the protocol below if there is suspicion of symptoms that cause concern:

- Do not go to the hospital, your doctor's office or an emergency clinic
- Stay home and self-quarantine
- Call your primary care physician or in the absence of a primary care physician call 68NURSE (686-8773)
- Follow the directions of medical professionals as to next steps

Close coordination and communication are a constant among the city, county and state entities and will continue as we work our way through this challenge in the days ahead.

Closures and Cancellations:

As a city, we are attempting to be informed, wise and cautious in moving forward with closures and cancellations. We are in conversations with event planners to make sure we are communicating and making decisions as cautiously and wisely as possible.

At the city level we are doing what many places of business are doing in limiting meetings that require travel either of staff or those seeking to meet with staff.



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Though the temptation is to make big, quick decisions to shut down events and gatherings we are aware of the cautious self-discipline Midlanders will exhibit through this season. Therefore, we will pursue closures and cancellations as the data and council dictate.

Moving Forward:

Midlanders know what it is to weather the toughest and most uncertain of times. This unprecedented season will be no different as we rally together, seek counsel and move forward with the well-being of all, at the forefront of our minds. We will not politicize our actions or processes but will pull together resources and data, protect our friends and neighbors and honor one another as we fight these challenges together. Whether it is the economy or a virus we will once again be an example to the world of what it looks like to apply West Texas values and priorities towards a healthy solution.

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