



## Mayor's Message – April 8, 2020

Neighbors –

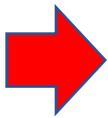
Spoiler alert – long and wordy! In the bi-weekly conferences with County/State/Public Health officials some updates include:

- The saying **NO NEWS is GOOD NEWS** is the real message of this week. We have NO new CoVid cases in HSBay. The two original cases in HSBay are on the mend and expected to reach asymptomatic soon....after a doctor reviews they can be released from quarantine (though still under our same 'stay home' orders). Please keep them in your thoughts/prayers. The third Llano case (not in HSBay) is mild, quarantined at home. Approximately 30 tests are known to have been conducted in Llano County overall with no new confirmed positive.
- There are limited cases in Lampasas (1), Gillespie (1) and Burnet (4) with none in Mason or San Saba – so our surrounding regional counties are feeling success with the social distancing. We are extremely proud and confident that HSBay good practice is being effective. Keep it up through April...and await new directions in May.
- **Judge Cunningham did issue a new order on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** (see city website CoVid info). The order's intent is to share the 'enforcement' procedures in place for those few who do not heed the need for social distancing and safe practice. His goal is to use warnings and education – though it does note that repeated disregard for the safety of others could lead to fines, even jail. He asks all to be good neighbors first, but to report serious concerns to police.
- As a result of the order citing 'education', **the Judge has sent a team throughout the county** to offer support (via information/checklist of good practice) to businesses. This team began in HSBay where they (rightfully) fully expected to see citizens/businesses modeling safe behavior while also having as quality of life as possible – before moving west across the county. They were here on Monday and were impressed with those businesses they visited. Today (Tuesday) they returned – and had indicated that KXAN news heard of this outreach effort and requested to join them – to further highlight quality community practice. Ron Mitchell reported that the visit went well and **visitors indicated CapRock reflected some of the best examples of care and practice they had seen (no surprise)**. Similarly, our other businesses visited showed commitment to honor the orders of the State and care of the community. I appreciate the Judge taking the approach of collaboration and know he was disappointed that any oversight would be needed at all in the county, realizing it is a small portion of our citizenry in non-compliance.
- **In our conference call today, we did hear an interpretation of the Governor's Stay Home order** that would close our golf courses. We are filing a letter with the State (in cooperation with the County) to underscore the level of safety preparation our golf course management has taken. We will note the unique population and location of HSBay, the tenor of our residents to comply and care for safety, the importance of the golf as an outdoor activity for so many. We also will note (see below) that we feel we will be among those first cities authorized to take back some local control and begin to 'roll out' business re-openings where we can validate that good practice will continue. The "Stay Home" order expires in 3 weeks and by the time we receive response to our letter it may all be a moot issue depending upon what May orders indicate – but I wanted you to know in case hear this interpretation of the Governor's orders. For now, we will continue best practice citizenry. **Please help us approach this low key to the benefit of all.**

In other news:

**Your City Council met in a full day workshop** – 6 of us in 6ft spaced seating – to discuss a wide array of relevant topics leading into the close of the 2020 budget year/plans for 2021. (\*See agenda on city website). No actions were taken, but we were able to get deep background that will assist in upcoming council meetings where motions/actions may be considered.

- Emergency Operations shared a full confidence in being equipped to respond to any emerging needs from CoVid-19 or other health concerns. If you know of people who are suffering due to layoffs or other challenges, please refer them to the Fire Chief ([bbatla@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](mailto:bbatla@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov)) who can provide them a listing of area support efforts. Chief Batla shared that we have expended about \$8400 to date for CoVid preparedness which will be refunded through the disaster relief funds. He also reminded all to visit the city website if you want to see the varied CoVid relevant information in detail. **ALSO...look for article in Beacon next week** showcasing an innovative invention by your own fireman to quickly sanitize equipment/trucks. Over 8,000 'hits' already made by first responders across the country looking to copy the technique.
- The council discussed 15 agenda items (posted on website) that could impact the 2021 budget planning beyond the normal expenditures of personnel, etc. This was essential as we know we will be impacted by sales tax revenue loss, reduced water usage by the hotel/others due to rain, and recent legislation regarding funding formulas. The near 4-hour meeting was recorded and a few people 'called' in to listen to the discussions (as an open meeting).



**This week's conference call was hosted by Governor Abbott** directly shared some clear facts to help relieve fears as to preparedness, including:

- If people honor the 'stay home' orders through April, **Tx is well prepared to meet the need.**
- Currently there are 21,000 hospital beds, 2,000+ ICU beds, and 7,000 ventilators – more than any anticipated need. Texas has over 7 million masks available for first responders and medical needs. Gov. Abbott said in remote communities the amount of beds/materials may be less...and these Mayors were given contact information for assistance. He emphasized highly vulnerable facilities such as nursing homes are closed to anyone except staff and medical support.
- He did share that 89,000 tests conducted in Texas have resulted **in 90% NOT being** infected (a 10% or less infection confirmation). There are 1,250 of these positive tests who require hospitalization and ,as of today, 158 fatalities in Texas. While this is disheartening and prayers go out to families – it is proportionally smaller than feared.
- **Congressman Kevin Brady** shared information for cities/counties with regard to economic impact, highlighting the extraordinary scope of the legislative action toward recovery (CARES). Immediate actions include unemployment expansion access (to include self-employed, furloughed) with increased pay/time (\$600 increase/13 weeks longer). The Bill includes soon to be dispersed direct payments to citizens, the 'freeze' on mandate for those over 72 to draw down retirement accounts, etc. A detailed listing will be forthcoming through the State of Texas website and the Texas Workforce Commission. The Governor expressed specific support for most impacted industries such as restaurant and beauty salons , including "forgivable" loans and unprecedented access to unemployment.

**Brian Daniel (Tx Workforce)** shared that unemployment claims increased from 13K to over 300K a week this month. He asked for some patience, but noted that 90% of claims can be filed on-line. He encouraged anyone whose work was impacted by the CoroVid to immediately file. They also indicated that when a bank reaches their lending level, there are options being made available through the Treasury. To our knowledge, HSBay will not have risks in this area.

The list goes on with regard to expenses for healthcare and schools/colleges for increased costs. Funding will be based on population and will flow to largest cities directly with smaller cities (such as HSBay) working through the State. He said the reopening of the economy is likely to be a 'rolling' event where identified cities can locally determine businesses to be opened with less risk of social distance challenge. **We anticipate that HSBay could be among the first to qualify** as we have exemplary statistics, demonstrated preparation, a review by the county for 'best model practice', and a unique population/location that poses no threat to other communities.



**Nim Kidd**, Texas Division of Emergency Management and **Dr. H**, representative from Dept of Human Health Services spoke to testing. He shared general statistics but also spoke to a question about the new 5-minute instrument test through Abbott Labs that may go to their existing customers in coming weeks before any public access. He did indicate that testing everyone is not valuable at this time. For example, a negative result in someone today might not be accurate the next day if that person assumes they are 'safe' and moves through the community without safety precautions. Both mentioned that **NO home testing kits are FDA approved**. In response to some cities indicating they have been denied test kits, they acknowledged that there is a scarcity of specific collection and reading equipment for testing, but are working to fulfill orders that are backlogged to the most critical needs...and are encouraging private sector collaboration. They reminded all that testing is less important than prevention – and it is critical that social distancing is fully embraced. **Hygiene is working!**

Thank you all for continuing to count your blessings and take seriously our part in honoring the request of our President, Governor, and County officials to move our region back to full health and rejuvenation.

As we head into the Easter week fully – let's continue to pray for one another, find reasons to laugh out loud and celebrate the amazement of the blessed season that is reflected in Spring bursting forth.

April showers...May flowers!

Cynthia Clinesmith, Mayor

City Website

[www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov)



for CoVid19 details/county and state actions