

## City of Rockport



**Honorable Mayor  
Patrick R. Rios**

Rockport Service Center  
2751 S.H. 35 Bypass  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-729-2213

## Aransas County



**Honorable Judge  
C.H. Burt Mills, Jr.**

Aransas County Court House  
2840 Highway 35 N.  
Rockport, TX 78382  
361-790-0101

## Town of Fulton



**Honorable Mayor  
Kelli Cole**

City Hall  
201 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fulton, TX 78358  
361-729-5533

## A MESSAGE TO ARANSAS COUNTY RESIDENTS

July 22, 2020

For today's weekly briefing, we had scheduled Dr. Cuevas, head of the Region 11 Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) office to specifically address some of the questions and concerns about reporting that we have been unable to answer. Unfortunately, she had to pull out and we are hopeful that we can reschedule for a later date.

Here is what we DO know based on conversations with Dr. Cuevas in preparation for the briefing:

1. **Hospitalizations** – The HIPAA act prevents hospitals from reporting patient information to anyone other than their local health district. These numbers are then shared with DSHS.
2. **COVID-19 Deaths** – This information is provided to the County in which the deaths occur. In many cases, postmortems are required for a final diagnosis and this can take several weeks. Afterwards, it is then shared with DSHS.

So, DSHS is receiving this information, but it is taking weeks (or even months) for them to process the paperwork and share it with counties like ours, which do not have a dedicated health district or department. And, as you know, we have not received ANY information about hospitalizations or deaths.

To help circumvent this delay and provide a more accurate picture of what is happening in our county, we are asking that a family member alert us of a hospitalization or death associated with the coronavirus. Please send the name and age of the individual, when and where they were hospitalized, whether they were released or passed away (include a copy of the death certificate, if possible), and your contact name and phone number to: [pio@aransascountry.org](mailto:pio@aransascountry.org). We ask that it be a family member, and not someone who "knows about it," to preserve confidentiality.

As we compile and verify this information, we will include it in our daily reports and follow-up with DSHS.

***Today's report includes five new cases bringing the total to 111 with 40 recoveries: M(30's), M (20's), F (50's), M (20's) and F (60's).***

Please continue to follow the safety protocols as our numbers continue to rise. We do know that containment and quarantine are effective in reducing the spread as evidenced by the recent outbreak in the Rockport Police Department. If you're feeling unwell - self isolate for a day or two - don't assume it's just allergies

These are difficult times for all of us. We should not let fear or rumors lead us. Nor should we become complacent in adhering to safety protocols. None of us enjoy wearing masks, but it is what needs to be done at the present time. We will prevail.

And, as if things aren't difficult enough, we are watching two systems that may bring heavy rain or more to our area over the next week. We will continue to keep you informed.