



March 12, 2020

The public's safety, health and welfare are the City of Frisco's top priorities, always top of mind.

We will be hosting a virtual Town Hall about the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, on Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. We will share the latest information about the virus and our city's response to this developing situation. **Dr. Mark Gamber**, our city's Medical Director and Public Health Authority, will be joined by health experts from Collin and Denton counties. Join us by calling 888-409-5380 or watch this information session on live on Facebook.

Regardless of the challenge, our city team always plans for the worst and hopes for the best. The coronavirus situation is new, dynamic, and changing daily. That's why we created a webpage, [FriscoTexas.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.frisco.texas.gov/coronavirus), to update you on the latest developments here at home.

There you'll find information about three confirmed cases of the coronavirus confined to a single Frisco family (as of March 12). This family is quarantined at home and is being monitored by Collin County Health Care Services (CCHCS). On Wednesday, March 11, we received encouraging news that one of the family's school-aged children retested **negative** for the coronavirus. That child's initial test was inconclusive.

Rest assured, our first responders have been planning for coronavirus since December when news of the virus, also known as COVID-19, started circulating overseas.

Aside from our first responders, Frisco has staff dedicated to emergency preparedness. **Emergency Management** staff works out of our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and is monitoring the very latest developments. Our emergency management team is engaging in daily briefings with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

We're also very fortunate to have **Dr. Mark Gamber** on our team. As our city's Medical Director and Public Health Authority, Dr. Gamber is monitoring health organizations every hour and issuing medical directives to keep our first responders informed with the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus.

We're collaborating with Collin and Denton County authorities; and our emergency managers also participated in recent briefings hosted by the Texas Governor Greg Abbott, as well as the White House. We are also in daily contact with our partners at the Frisco Independent School District, which announced today it will extend spring break by one week.

Our City of Frisco buildings are cleaned daily. But during this challenging time, our city and contracted custodial staff are cleaning 'high touch points' (such as restrooms, door handles, elevator buttons) multiple times a day. We are suspending city business travel for our employees outside of Dallas-Fort Worth. It's an effort to reduce our employees' and our community's risk of exposure to the virus. Our health inspectors are also advising our nursing homes, assisted living and other elder care facilities about 'best practices' for reducing the risk of the virus within their communities.

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In the meantime, health experts stress we all use simple, common sense ‘best practices’ to stay healthy – just like we do year-round, *especially during flu season*.

- Wash your hands, thoroughly and often. In a pinch, use hand sanitizers.
- Use your elbow to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you’re sick. But if you have flu-like symptoms, call your doctor. If you don’t have a primary care physician, call an urgent care facility. That said, call ahead and share your symptoms – then follow the doctor’s directives. Your health care professional will prescribe any testing for the virus, if necessary.

Our city stands ready to respond to any emergency. Thank you for your support and trust during this challenging time. Our community’s health relies on all of us working together.

Stay healthy everyone!

Mayor Jeff Cheney