



**DALE SPURGIN
JONES COUNTY JUDGE**

**JAMIE JORDAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

PRESS RELEASE

December 21, 2020

COVID 19

Jones County has continued to see declining active COVID-19 cases reported to the local health authority following the surge of new cases from the Thanksgiving holidays. Although there are additional cases that have not been reported to the local health authority, the numbers reported have improved.

Residents of Jones County should continue to be diligent in observing CDC recommended practices for the Christmas and New Year's holidays of social distancing, face coverings, hand washings and limit non-essential gathering and travel, to assist in reducing the spread of Covid-19.

Persons testing positive are to self-isolate until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without fever-reducing medication and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. If the onset date of symptoms is not known or the person is asymptomatic, the specimen collection date is used in lieu of a known onset date. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html

Persons awaiting test results for COVID-19 are to self-isolate.

Anyone that believes they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate at home and contact their medical provider.

Persons exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 with close contact are to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of last exposure. The updated guidelines for reduced quarantine time periods of 7 or 10 days have not been accepted by the Department of State Health Services Region 2/3 or the local health authority due to being in a high hospitalization area.

Close contact is defined by the CDC as "Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated."

Jones County is **NOT EXEMPT** from the face covering requirements and encourages residents to continue to remain in compliance with the Governor's order regarding face coverings.

Executive Order GA-29

Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to those that are exempted by the executive order.

Updates will be posted to the Jones County website; www.co.jones.tx.us as new information is received.