

To the citizens of Dickens County:

With the health and safety of Dickens County residents being my first priority, it becomes necessary to implement plans and procedures to ensure the best possible efforts to safeguard our residents. As the COVID-19 virus begins to impact rural West Texas, the Office of Emergency Management for Dickens County is launching plans to utilize a unified incident command approach to combating the spread of the virus and streamline community efforts to protect and inform citizens. This initiative is led by Wess Abbott, the Emergency Management Coordinator for Dickens County. The goal of this approach is to utilize key leaders in the three organized jurisdictions to gather information on a regular basis to;

- #1) analyze data as it is released by state agencies and medical providers,
- #2) avoid duplicating efforts in corresponding with state and federal agencies,
- #3) control information coming in and going out and
- #4) promote making decisions for responses on a more local level.

This is a good way to identify accurate and relative information to be disseminated to the public at large. With the existing restrictions of social gathering, these efforts will undoubtedly require extensive coordinating. In the meantime, I urge everyone to first and foremost, STAY CALM and do your part to combat the spread of the virus in our community by implementing the strategies published by the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health and Human Services. This information can be found at [CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and/or [DSHS.TEXAS.GOV](https://www.dshs.texas.gov). Instead of calling 9-1-1 or the Dickens County Sherriff's Office for more information, please call 2-1-1, #6. Relative to social media, please keep in mind the importance of respecting the privacy of our neighbors, friends and family members. Inaccurate information interferes with the efforts of community leaders to provide adequate services and accurate information to the public. In addition, until the possible need for more stringent local requirements become necessary, please recognize Governor Abbott's Executive Orders and the City of Spur Declaration. Life is still good in D.C., together we can keep it that way!

Kevin Brendle

Dickens County Judge