



COVID-19

March 17, 2020

The Coupland Volunteer Fire Department, along with our ESD#10 colleagues in Thrall, have made changes to our operating structure to ensure our continued operational effectiveness in view of the potential spread of COVID-19. Though the number of cases in Central Texas is currently low, the pattern of spread in other States and abroad is leading us to make prudent preparations now.

These measures will be in place until the end of March, or until further notice:

- Separate our team into short term Fire and Medical Branches
- Physical separation between the Branches
- Strict personal protective equipment and decontamination policies
- Strictly enforce our “not well, stay home” policy

We have already seen Fire Departments elsewhere in the county have to quarantine a large proportion of their staff due to a patient testing positive for COVID-19, this temporary division of our team into Fire and Medical Branches is designed to ensure we maintain the ability to operate. Though we cannot predict all future events, these measures are a sensible step to ensure we are able to continue to protect members of our community whilst looking out for our volunteer staff. We are acting out of an abundance of caution and sincerely hope that these measures prove to be unnecessary.

People at higher risk, who should take extra care

- Over 60 years of age, with the risk increasing significantly with age, people over 80 being at highest risk
- Underlying health conditions including Heart Disease, Diabetes, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer
- With weak immune systems

What can you do to help prevent the spread of respiratory disease

- Wash all parts of your hands with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds
- When soap and water not available, use alcohol based hand sanitizer (min 60% alcohol)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick, stay home if you are sick
- Cover cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objections such as door handles
- Follow advice from Williamson County & Cities Health District and the CDC

Additional Information - Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>