



## City of Helotes

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### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – March 17, 2020 (1 of 2)** *CDC recommends that individuals avoid gatherings of 50 or more*

Positive cases of COVID-19 are on the rise in Texas. As a precaution, the City of Helotes is sharing the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that individuals avoid gatherings with 50 or more people for the next 8 weeks. The older population and those individuals with underlying health conditions are encouraged to be the most vigilant.

Yesterday, Governor Abbott explained that testing for COVID-19 in Texas is increasing. He cautioned Texans to be prepared for the possibility of a rise in the number of positive cases in Texas as more tests are done. There will be drive-thru testing areas setup soon but testing at these sites must be ordered through a doctor.

Texas officials are reminding citizens that there is not a supply problem with groceries and other goods. Instead, people are buying the products so quickly, that stores are having a hard time keeping up with demand and restocking the shelves. Please minimize purchasing in bulk to help avoid empty store shelves.

Officials agree that it's not a time to panic, but rather, remain calm and take precautions now to protect the unique needs of your household. It is important to follow good hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing and disinfecting highly touched surfaces. If you or a family member is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, specifically fever, cough, or shortness of breath, then you should stay home and avoid close contact with others.

As of today, the following events have been canceled or postponed in Helotes as a precaution:

- Helotes Municipal Court is rescheduling all cases set for hearing or trial through March 31, 2020.
- The State of the City event scheduled for March 17 has been postponed. Check the Helotes Area Chamber of Commerce website for updates at [www.heloteschamber.org](http://www.heloteschamber.org).
- The Fiesta Medal Bash scheduled for March 25 has been rescheduled to October 14. Visit [www.heloteschamber.org](http://www.heloteschamber.org) for details.

Helotes City Hall will continue to be open for normal business hours. Work areas are being thoroughly disinfected regularly to stop the spread of germs. Residents are encouraged to continue following local media outlets for breaking news updates.