



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Sheriff's Office makes changes to combat COVID-19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 16, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — In response to the CDC's recommendation and out of caution to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 Virus the following steps will be taken by the Comal County Sheriff's Office until further notice. These are being set in place to limit the exposure to our staff from becoming infected as well as inadvertently spreading the virus to the citizens of Comal County. We ask for your patience, understanding in hopes that we will be able to resume normal operations when it becomes safe again to do so.

Sheriff's Office Operations/Patrol:

- Emergency/Life Threatening calls or "In Progress" calls for service will be handled in the same manner as always and will not change.
- Non-Emergency/Routine calls for service will be handled over the telephone, if at all possible. If a deputy is required, our communications staff have been directed to ask if anyone in the household is exhibiting symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.
- Deputies responding to a residence will make every attempt not to go inside unless it is absolutely necessary and will be asking people to step outside when responding to a call for service.
- Deputies will try to maintain a "social distance" of approximately six feet with persons they are interacting with.
- The presence of deputies in the county will not change.
- Fingerprinting services for civilians has been suspended until further notice.
- The Citizen Sheriff Academy has been postponed until further notice.
- All civilian ride outs have been suspended until further notice.
- All volunteer services have been suspended until further notice.
- All 68A (Vehicle Inspections) have been suspended until further notice.
- Visitors coming into the Secure Area of the Sheriff's Office will be restricted on a needs basis.

Jail/Corrections:

- Pursuant to a recommendation from Texas Commission on Jail Standards, all face-to-face visits for inmates have been cancelled until further notice with the exception of attorney visits.
- Medical Staff will assess all incoming arrestees specifically for COVID-19. If the arrestee is showing symptoms of the virus, the arresting officer will be redirected to

take the arrestee to a hospital. The arrestee will not be accepted in the Jail until he/she has been cleared by a doctor.

- Access to the Jail will be limited to persons with a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

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