

# **Jim Wells County General Travel Advisory**

**COVID-19 is still spreading across our Texas communities. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick. We recommend residents cancel or postpone all non-essential travel, including travel within the state.**

**Recommendations will change as this situation develops. State and local health officials are implementing increased testing, tracing, and tracking of the coronavirus to decrease COVID-19 cases and death. Please adhere to the following recommendations:**

## **TRAVEL WITHIN TEXAS - CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL TRAVELERS**

Before traveling away from your local community, consider the following:

- Is COVID-19 spreading where you're going? You can get infected while traveling.
- Is COVID-19 spreading in your community? Even if you don't have symptoms, you can spread COVID-19 to others while traveling.
- Will you or those you are traveling with be within 6 feet of others during or after your trip? This increases your risk of getting infected and infecting others.
- Are you or other travelers at high risk for becoming hospitalized from COVID-19?
- Do you live with someone who is at high risk for becoming hospitalized from COVID-19?
- Does the city or county where you visit require you to stay home for 14 days after traveling?

**Do not travel if you are sick**, or if you have been around someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. If you must travel, be sure to check for area-specific safety updates and closures. You may need to stay in place, or self-quarantine, for 14 days.

Bring everything you will need, including your own groceries, medications, and toiletries. You should practice enhanced personal hygiene at all times.

**Important: Do not travel if you or someone in your home is sick with symptoms of COVID-19.**

## **ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

If you are at risk for serious illness from COVID-19, you should reduce your chances of catching the virus. You should avoid all travel both inside and outside of your community.

## **IF YOU TRAVEL**

If, despite these recommendations, you must travel, we recommend you do the following:

- Check the state or city health department travel guidance for your visit and along your route. Plan to keep checking for updates as you travel.
- State or city governments may enact travel restrictions, such as stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders, mandated quarantine upon arrival, or even state or border closures.
- Talk with your doctor before you go, especially if you are 65 years or older or have medical issues.
- Do a pre-trip check on your car and tires. Fewer roadside services may be available and you may become stranded if you have car troubles.
- Clean your car, especially the steering wheel, safety belts, door handles, and the fob or keys you use to start the car.
  - Follow the CDC guidelines on how to sanitize your home which may be applicable to cleaning your car.
- For each traveler, pack:
  - Cloth face coverings
  - Gloves
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Soap
  - Disinfectant wipes
  - A restroom break kit including: bars of soap, paper towels for drying hands and using it to open doors, toilet seat covers, hand sanitizer, and wipes when soap and water are not available.
- Pack plenty of charging cords and external batteries for electronic devices. If your car's navigation system contains emergency calling, enable it.
- Pack a cooler with drinks and snacks, including high-protein foods that will not go bad.

If you need to stop for food, gas, or supplies

- One traveler should engage with store employees.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after returning to your car.
- Use cloth face coverings.

- Wait to use the restroom until after you pump gas, and wash your hands before and after doing so.
- Wear gloves while you pump gas and throw them away.

## **PLANNING YOUR TRIP**

- Call the hotel, restaurant, or rest area to make sure they are open, as many may have reduced hours. Do not rely on a website's information.
- Read the fine print and understand your lodging's cancellation rules.
- Ask about refund options for hotels or rental properties ahead of your trip.
- Book directly with your hotel or lodging establishment.

## **AFTER YOU RETURN FROM TRAVEL**

After you return we ask you to check yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. You should check for symptoms even if you followed the recommendations above.

Stay home as much as possible to stop the spread of COVID-19 to others.

- Check your symptoms:
  - Check your temperature twice daily
  - Write down your symptoms
  - If you develop symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, call your doctor.