



Bell County Public Health District

www.bellcountyhealth.org

Phone: 254-773-4457

Twitter: @BellCountyPUBH

Facebook: Bell County Public Health District

The protocols outlined here are a condensed version of the Texas DSHS protocols for all businesses. This is intended to be a brief that is generally applicable and easily digestible.

COVID-19 is highly contagious and this is true even for those with minimal or no symptoms. While it is not possible to anticipate who may or may not be asymptomatic, the steps below are a good way to mitigate spread by symptomatic people and will reduce spread from asymptomatic people as well. This disease can be particularly harmful to those over 65 years of age and those with health conditions that place them at higher risk.

General Steps for all Businesses

- Ensure that all employees engage in regular cleaning and sanitation in the workplace, particularly for high touch surfaces such as counters, tables, restrooms and door knobs. For a list of cleaners that kill COVID-19 see the list of [FDA approved cleaning products](#).
- Ensure all employees are educated on and practice good hand hygiene. Employers should provide hand sanitizer in places where hand washing stations are not readily accessible.
- Place readily visible signage at the business to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Employees should attempt to maintain 6 feet of distance or greater from one another and customers wherever possible. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Consider the use of barriers to minimize transmission between employees and customers.
- Consider asking all employees to use a non-medical mask when at work.
- Do not allow any employees with new or worsening signs of illness to come to work. The most common symptoms include: cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat, fever or diarrhea.
- Any person with known close contact with a person with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 should be excluded from work until the end of a 14 day self-isolation and monitoring period. The 14 day isolation should begin with the last known date of exposure.
- If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 and is symptomatic they should only return to work when:
 1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since symptoms have resolved. This is defined as no fever for at least that 72 hour period without any medication to reduce fever.
 2. Symptoms should have improved and;

Janice Smith, MD

Health Authority



Amanda Robison-Chadwell, PhD, MPH

Health District Director

Bell County Public Health District

www.bellcountyhealth.org

Phone: 254-773-4457

Twitter: @BellCountyPUBH

Facebook: Bell County Public Health District

3. At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms began.
- For employees with a COVID-19 diagnosis but no symptoms the 14 day period of isolation from the time of diagnosis should be followed.
 - Employers should avoid buffet style meals for employees

Employers should be prepared for COVID-19 to impact their business and it is recommended that employers when impacted make a public statement as soon as possible in order to address concerns from the public and the media as soon as possible. To that end, the next page includes a template that may be used for that purpose.

Janice Smith, MD

Health Authority



Amanda Robison-Chadwell, PhD, MPH

Health District Director

Bell County Public Health District

www.bellcountyhealth.org

Phone: 254-773-4457

Twitter: @BellCountyPUBH

Facebook: Bell County Public Health District

Date

PRESS RELEASE HEADLINE

City, State, Date—Begin with a statement about the COVID-19 impact. For example: *Business A was made aware of 2 positive cases among staff at our business and has identified 7 other employees who were in close contact with the positive cases. Follow the statement with actions that the business is taking to address the notification. The individuals who were diagnosed have been sent home as have those with close contact. They will remain home for 14 days or until they receive results of a negative test. The business was/is closed until (it is recommended that this period be at least 24 hours) for sanitation.*

From here the business may include any other information they deem necessary. It is recommended that employers do their best to avoid identifying any impacted employee by avoiding the use of gender or age identifiers.