

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Golden Plains Community Hospital, Fritch Medical Clinic, Golden Plains Walk-In and Specialty Clinics are implementing screening of patients with respiratory illnesses as follows for Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Fever and/or signs of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND anyone who has had close contact with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, AND/OR a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.

Plans are developed to prevent transmission of COVID-19 if the need should arise. Golden Plains Community Hospital, Borger Office of Emergency Management and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services are working together to stay on top of the frequently changing guidelines and situation in order to keep the citizens of Hutchinson County as safe as possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (N95 masks), which are back-ordered, are being inventoried at this time for healthcare workers and 1st responders who may take care of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Surge plans will be implemented if an outbreak in Hutchinson County develops under the direction of the TDSHS and the Infectious Disease Medical Director of Golden Plains Community Hospital. This may include education of persons calling offices before arriving at a facility for assessment or assessing patients in personal vehicles for triage purposes. Patients with mild illnesses with COVID-19 may be cared for in the home setting rather than in hospital settings.

As a reminder, the people that have been brought into Texas are contained at this time by the CDC and military. No person to person transmission with unknown source has been identified in Texas.

At this time, the CDC believes that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom, before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes
- Refrain from hugging or shaking hands.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

The use of facemasks is for healthcare workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a healthcare facility).

For more information, please visit the CDC COVID-19 website.

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