



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacey Ford Osborne
City of Taylor Communications Office
stacey.osborne@taylortx.gov
512-352-5448 (ofc.)
512-365-9310 (cell)

CITY OF TAYLOR TO KEEP PARKS FACILITIES CLOSED DUE TO INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES Large Gatherings Discouraged Until County Sees a 14-day Decline in Cases

TAYLOR, TEXAS –After consulting with the Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) about a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in the county, City of Taylor officials have decided to continue to keep park facilities closed until further notice and will restrict large gatherings and events at public facilities. Park facilities will continue to be closed until the county sees a 14-day decline in cases, as recommended by the WCCHD. Also, in order to discourage large gatherings over the holiday weekend, open spaces in City Parks will be closed to the public July 4 – 5, with trails and sidewalks remaining open for walking and running purposes.

All scheduled programs, activities, games, and rentals scheduled at Taylor Parks will be canceled until further notice. Splash pads at all City parks will continue to stay off and City pools will remain closed. The skate park, pavilions, playscapes, as well as volleyball and basketball court areas and restrooms in City parks will remain closed. City tennis courts, hike and bike trails, park open spaces, sidewalks, and running track will remain open for active use within the current permitted constraints of social and physical distancing. Soccer practices at Taylor Regional Park can continue as planned, although tournaments through the summer have been cancelled.

The vehicle-only Independence Day Parade scheduled for July 4 will continue as planned. A fireworks display planned for that evening will also move forward, but residents will not be able to watch the display from open spaces in City Parks as they will be closed to the public that weekend. Those viewing the firework display throughout the City are strongly encouraged to use precaution, maintain social distancing, and wear masks if social distancing is difficult to achieve.

WCCHD reports that community transmission is considered to be widespread in Williamson and Travis Counties. Since businesses have been reopened, new daily cases have been increasing

along with increasing hospitalizations. This makes public gatherings particularly concerning, as the more people an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19, allowing further spread of the virus. The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.

Williamson County health officials said, “As Williamson County and surrounding areas see a steady rise in new cases per day, we need to be vigilant in our personal protection actions. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 takes everyone’s help to protect our community and balance the ability to keep businesses open by avoiding high-risk environments and situations.”

Mayor Brandt Rydell said that the City’s decision to keep public facilities closed and to restrict large gatherings is in the best interest of the community. “We know that people want to get together as they are accustomed to doing in the summer, but we also know that cases are on the rise in our area. Without a vaccine or effective treatment, the virus spreads quickly, so social distancing is really the only weapon we have against it. After talking with our partners at the Williamson County and Cities Health District, we felt that this was the most responsible thing to do for our community, especially for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of the virus.”

The City of Taylor will continue to monitor this ongoing and fluid situation closely with Williamson County and the WCCHD. Updates will be posted at taylortx.gov and on social media as they become available. For more information, please visit www.taylortx.gov