
Health Protocols & Videotape

1 message

Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 12:11 AM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Cc: Board <board@wtc.edu>

The results below are as of 1:00 PM on Friday, May 1st. These numbers do not yet include the tests administered by the National Guard last week.

| Tests Administered | Pending | Negative | Positive |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 201 | 23 | 176 | 2 |

Welcome back to those who have been off campus for awhile! You were missed!

Attached please find the *Minimum Standard Health Protocols* booklet that I sent last Wednesday, along with separate sheets from the booklet for individuals, employers and single person offices. Each contains a checklist of health protocols that everyone should follow when out in public, whether at work, in a store, in a restaurant, etc.

Everyone should self-screen before coming into work to make sure they are not running a fever nor exhibiting any signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19.

Bottom line, if you are sick, stay home.

Please wash your hands upon coming into work and often throughout the day, maintain social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, and wear a mask or face covering if you are going to be in close proximity with others. Please review the attached information for further information.

As a reminder, Corey Knipe will be in the theater Monday and Tuesday from 9am to 5pm to help anyone who would like to videotape a message for our graduates.

The quote for today takes on a more menacing meaning when learning of its author, Robert Bloch, best known for writing **PSYCHO**:

The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on.

Lock the bathroom door!

Barb

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4 attachments

 **MinimumStandardHealthProtocols.pdf**
580K

 **Individuals.pdf**
153K

 **All Employers.pdf**
159K

 **SinglePersonOffices.pdf**
240K

West Texas Social Distancing

1 message

Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Mon, May 4, 2020 at 10:48 PM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Cc: Board <board@wtc.edu>

As of 1:00 pm today, the results of COVID-19 testing in Scurry County, *including* the 13 tests administered by the National Guard last week, are as follows:

| Tests Administered | Pending | Negative | Positive |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 223 | 7 | 214 | 2 |

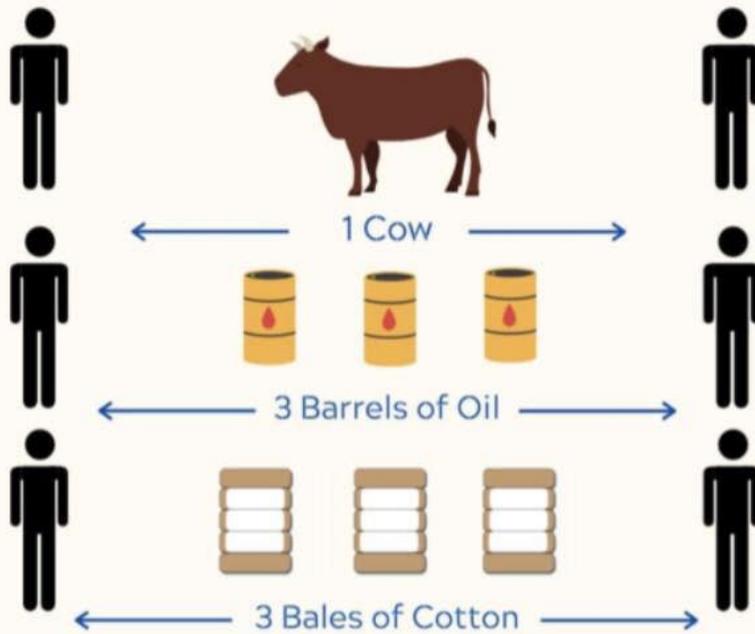
Although we are delighted that tests results since April 10th have been negative, please continue to adhere to the CDC guidelines of social distancing, frequent hand washing and sanitizing, and wearing a face covering when in close proximity to others. Let's help keep our county cases as low as possible even while we continue to *reopen Texas*.

While looking at Scurry County Health Unit's Facebook page, I came upon a West Texas pictorial of social distancing that I thought you would enjoy and perhaps relate to more than taped lines on a retail store floor. It's nice to know that even in the midst of the COVID crisis there are people with a creative sense of humor!

Today's quote is attributed to author Thomas James Higgins,

You know, solving other people's problems is easy. The only person I can't seem to figure out is myself.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: 6 FEET IN WEST TEXAS



Reminder: maintaining good social distance (about 6 feet) is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Barb

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Update on Expanded Openings

1 message

Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Wed, May 6, 2020 at 11:57 PM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Cc: Board <board@wtc.edu>

As of 1:00 pm today, the results of COVID-19 testing in Scurry County are as follows:

| Tests Administered | Pending | Negative | Positive |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 237 | 11 | 224 | 2 |

Although we are ramping up to get 100% of our employees back to work at WTC, please note that the campus itself is not yet fully *open*. We have put the following in red "ticker tape" scrolling across the top of our website: **STUDENTS & VISITORS ARE ASKED NOT TO COME ON CAMPUS WITHOUT A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.**

I realize it is almost impossible to curb walk-ins, however for everyone's protection please try to limit in person appointments as much as possible, adhere to social distancing, and use face coverings if unable to maintain at least a 6-foot separation.

Governor Abbott's latest executive order expands openings of certain businesses and activities, and will remain in effect until May 19, 2020 unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

Starting Friday, May 8, 2020:

Cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, and nail salons *may* open, but all such salons and establishments must ensure at least six feet of social distancing between operating workstations.

Tanning salons *may* also reopen under the same limitation.

Starting Monday, May 18, 2020:

Gyms, exercise facilities, and exercise classes *may* open, but must operate at 25% occupancy. Locker rooms and shower facilities will remain closed, but restrooms may open.

"People shall avoid visiting bars, massage establishments, tattoo & piercing studios... or interactive amusement venues such as bowling alleys, video arcades ... unless these enumerated establishments or venues are specifically added as a reopened service by proclamation or future executive order of the governor."

TEA Commissioner Morath also provided new guidance for class of 2020 graduation ceremonies for Texas school districts. The TEA is providing four different pathways for schools to celebrate their graduating seniors, and each district is at liberty to determine if any of these options best serve the needs and desires of their community:

- **Completely virtual ceremonies** that take place entirely online, with the use of videoconference or other technologies.
- **Hybrid ceremonies**, which consist of a compilation of videos of students being recognized in person as they celebrate graduation in small groups.
- **Vehicle ceremonies**, in which students and their families wait in their cars while other graduates are recognized one at time with their families alongside them.

- **Outdoor in-person ceremonies**, which are currently permitted for counties as follows:
 - Between May 15 and May 31, an outdoor ceremony may take place in a rural county that has an attestation as described in the Governor's Report to Open Texas that remains in effect 7 days prior to the ceremony.
 - An outdoor ceremony may take place in any Texas county on or after June 1.

For the full text of the Governor's Proclamation, please see: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-executive-order-to-expand-openings-of-certain-businesses-and-activities>

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who stopped by the theater to record a video message with Corey the past few days. I know our graduates will truly appreciate seeing you and hearing your messages. Putting together our virtual graduation is quite a feat, so I also want to offer up sincere thanks to Lorenzo and Corey for all their hard work. I know our 2020 virtual commencement ceremony will turn out great!

Today's apt quote is attributed to Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset,

In a way the philosopher and the barber are of the same guild; the barber cuts hair and the philosopher splits hairs.

Barb

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Welcome Back Update

1 message

Barbara Beebe<bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 11:30 AM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good Morning Everyone,

Now that we're all back to work I wanted to take a minute to thank you for your dedication in jumping right back in and doing what needs to be done. It is sincerely appreciated!

As for the COVID-19 numbers, the health department and hospital are now only reporting them on weekdays, so as of Friday the 15th, there had been 309 tests administered, 293 results were negative, 14 results are pending, and we still have only had 2 positives.

Although I think a lot of people in our county are viewing the situation as much ado about nothing, national reports are still very concerned about a resurgence in cases as the summer progresses, more business open, and more people travel.

As for the college, I know there are many concerns going forward as well. I want to assure you that while it may seem that nothing is being done and no decisions are being made, it is truly just the opposite. Your administrative staff gets together weekly for at least 3 hours, in addition to numerous individual meetings, discussing the current situation and the possibilities for fall. I am on conference calls with the 50 Texas community college presidents at least three times a week, usually more, and we are collectively trying to come up with some direction. Since every area in Texas is different, there is no one size fits all decision. Before I make what I think is the best decision for Western Texas College I want to gather as much factual information as possible. I need to consider not only our faculty and staff, but our students and their impact, real or perceived, on the college and the community.

Our face-to-face classes on our campus are fueled primarily through athletics. With the current 36 square foot per person social distancing recommendation, that cuts our class size down tremendously. Questions involving dorms, the cafeteria and transportation, all play a part in any decision regarding face-to-face instruction as we go forward. Athletic competition brings up more questions: how to maintain social distancing while traveling, what happens if an athlete spikes a fever on the road, what happens if they're exposed to an ill competitor, and on and on.

We also don't know what may be happening with our funding. Texas is not in the best position at this time and there is talk about the colleges not receiving their full appropriations. While this would be incredibly detrimental, such concerns about funding, coupled with questions regarding what fall enrollment will look like, will the virus spike in our area, can we proceed with face-to-face courses this fall, or will we have to offer online courses or a hybrid of online and face-to-face classes this fall, are all questions without answers.

I facetiously say *if only we had a crystal ball*, well in this unprecedented time, that's exactly what we are trying to do, predict the future with no prior roadmap to assist in the decision making.

Please remember that all decisions made are fluid, and what might seem set in stone at noon, could very well change by 12:01. What this might be looked upon as a negative, I look at as most positive. We are nothing if not adept at changing our course. We have the most dedicated, persistent, pertinacious and persevering staff and faculty, and we have proven we can change on a dime! I appreciate each and every one of you, and again, I thank you for all you have done and will continue to do!

This week's apropos quote is attributed to baseball great Yogi Berra,
It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future.

Smile, or even better, laugh,

Barb

5/18/2020

Western Texas College Mail - Welcome Back Update

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Update & Holiday

1 message

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Thu, May 21, 2020 at 10:01 AM

To: Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu> Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good Morning Everyone,

If you haven't already heard, it is my **displeasure** to report that we have **two new positive COVID-19 cases in Scurry County**. Both are female, one is 55-65 years of age and the other is 35-45 years of age. The test tally as of 1:00pm yesterday:

| Tests Administered | Pending | Negative | Positive |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| 352 | 7 | 341 | 4 |

As we enter into a long holiday weekend the new positive cases should serve as a sober reminder to please continue to be safe, maintain social distancing and wear a face covering out in public.

On a happier note, in order to get a jump start on the holiday weekend, please feel free to begin your safe celebrations today by leaving at noon.

(I shouldn't have to say it, but as it has been asked in the past, please do not leave for lunch at 11:00 when we're off for the day at noon.)

Enjoy your Memorial Day Weekend!



Barb

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COVID-19 Update

1 message

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Sat, May 23, 2020 at 7:11 PM

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 Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good evening everyone,

It's unfortunately been a busy couple of days into our holiday weekend already. **As of 4:30 PM today we have a total of 17 active cases of COVID-19 reported in Scurry County.** The 2 inactive positives were our initial COVID-19 cases from early April who are no longer considered active cases.

| Test Administered | Pending | Negative | Active Positive | Inactive Positive |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 442 | 37 | 386 | 17 | 2 |

During this holiday weekend please continue to stay safe and follow CDC guidelines. Remember the best way to stay safe is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

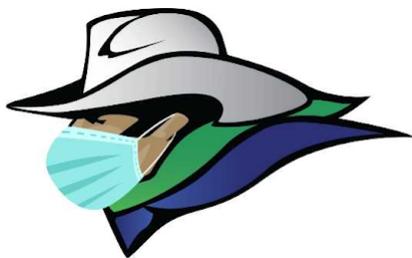
From the county website: The CDC now estimates that 35% of all people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, but notes those individuals are "100%" as infectious as those with symptoms.

THE CDC also estimates that 40% of the virus' transmission happens BEFORE people feel sick. This reinforces the need for social distancing and face coverings. This is often a time of year for large gatherings, therefore, it is critical to take steps to protect yourself and your family.

Education is power. Please take a few minutes and read CDC's guidelines on how to protect yourself and your loved ones and what to do to monitor your health:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Enjoy Your Holiday Weekend but Please, **Stay Safe and Stay Well!**



Barb

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