***IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF FOARD COUNTY ON CONCERNS OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) PANDEMIC EVENT.***

*As you know the President of the United States declared a National Emergency for this event, which frees additional funds and relieve certain regulation in order to deal with this virus. On Friday, 3/13/2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster for all 254 Texas counties. This will allow the Governor to issue emergency orders as needed. At the County Level County Judges continue to retain the authority to also declare a Local Disaster and issue emergency orders as needed. We are in constant contact with the Federal Government, (DHS) Department of Homeland Security, and State Level (TSDHS) Texas State Department of Homeland Services and Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) through e-mails, and/or Tele-conferences calls. At the Local Levels all protocols are in place for now. If this changes, we can and will go to different levels.*

*For now, we will have a role to play in containing this virus. Here is what is suggested:*

1. *Washing hands longer and often;*
2. *Use disinfecting wipes on all surfaces many people touch, such as, shopping carts, door knobs, and frequently used surfaces.*
3. *Do not wear a mask unless you are sick.*
4. *If there is an outbreak in our community, limit your exposure to others, and prepare for things you may need, such as essential groceries and prescription medicine, and do takeout for meals.*
5. *Stay home if you feel sick, especially if you have fever.*
6. *Do all the things you do when in a bad flu outbreak. Stay away from sick and vulnerable people and take care of yourself.*

*We will continue to monitor this pandemic event with the utmost concern and will continue to keep you updated of any changes.*

*There will be posting in the local paper, County website, and on Facebook. If you have any question or other concerns, you can contact me on my cell phone at any time (940-655-4715.) May God bless Foard County.*

*Respectfully, Foard County Judge and Commissioners*