



**Jeff R. Branick**  
County Judge

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 23, 2020**

As the Coronavirus has prevented people from gathering, Governor Abbott has suspended part of the open-meeting law. By Emergency Order, to protect from exposure to the Coronavirus, the Jefferson County Courthouse has extremely limited public entry and is open only to, authorized employees who are working to maintain services, and those citizens who have an exigent need to transact business within the courthouse.

All sections of the Texas Open Meetings Act remain in place, except for the requirement of a physical gathering space for people to watch/attend the Commissioners Court meeting and ask questions.

Jefferson County has taken steps to minimize exposure of persons to the Coronavirus by implementing steps to allow the public to watch the Commissioners Court meetings remotely online, beginning March 24, 2020, and until it is safe to reopen for public gatherings.

Those who wish to view the meeting may use the link:  
<https://co.jefferson.tx.us/commcrt/commlink.htm>

Anyone interested may wish to listen to and communicate with the Court by telephone, and by calling 571-748-4021, and using PIN number 623-6974# they will be connected to our in-court phone teleconference system. The line for phones will be open at 10:20 a.m. on Tuesdays for all customary posted meetings of the Court. If other public meetings of the Commissioners Court are scheduled, this information will be included in the posted agenda. This virtual attendance system will remain in place for so long as public attendance is limited.