

LET'S STAY INFORMED AND PROTECT EACH OTHER BY FOLLOWING THE CDC RULES

The coronavirus pandemic that has ravaged New York and densely populated cities everywhere around the planet has finally penetrated our community in the heart of the Delta, where the crisis could be just as fearsome. It depends on us. The three trillion dollars of relief provided by the U.S. Government - and some by the state - will provide little solace in Marvell and Elaine.

Here is the situation in our community:



- The schools are closed, indefinitely - for the rest of the normal school year at least. There is the option of online schooling, but many of our students do not have the infrastructure to access the technology to do classes and homework on line. That is a reality in some rural communities.
- Here at the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center, we are as committed as ever to advancing the health, safety and education of children and everyone, but resources are even more limited. The BFT restaurant is closed until further notice.
- Partner Bank and Southern Bancorp see customers only at the drive-thru. The post office takes correct change only or a credit card. Marvell Park is closed. E-Z Mart allows three customers at a time. Dollar General and Family Dollar stores mandate customers to stay six feet apart. The Carousel does take-out only. Bartlett Tire says stay 20 feet apart and use a credit card or exact change.

Phillips County, as of April 8, registered 4 Covid-19 cases, but that is because of very limited testing in the Delta. Equity and justice demands testing for everyone, especially the very young, the sick and the elderly.



But what everyone - *everyone!* - can do for all his or her friends, family and countrymen is observe the easy rules that health experts say is our best hope until there is a cure or a vaccine. Look out for each other and give the next person an opportunity to live and stay well. Stay at home as much as possible, stay far apart, and wear your mask and gloves if you go out into the public.

April 2020