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Monday, March 16, 2020

Cooperative closes lobbies during virus outbreak

AZLE – Tri-County Electric Cooperative has announced it is closing its lobbies in Azle, Keller, Granbury and Seymour through Monday, March 30, in an effort to help combat the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus infection.

Drive-throughs will remain open, and members may continue to pay bills via tcectexas.com, TCEC Connect, the mail, or calling the offices at 817.444.3201.

With several cases confirmed in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, most school districts have extended their spring breaks, and large gatherings are suspended or cancelled throughout the country. Cooperative staff will continue to work, but the co-op is taking steps not only to make sure its members and employees do not contact the virus, but to assure members that the power system will continue to work for them during the crisis and beyond.

“We are experiencing something like most of us have never experienced before,” said Darryl Schriver, Tri-County Electric Co-op CEO and General Manager. “We will take this crisis one step at a time, just like we do with ice storms, tornadoes, etc. Remember that things will change.”

Members are reminded to do their best to conserve electricity while they are confined to their homes, since the power grid may be stretched with more kids at home and people working from home. As always, check Facebook for updates and energy efficiency tips as we work through this situation *together*.

In the meantime, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommend the following:

- 1) Stay home if you're sick: monitor your symptoms and call your doctor;
- 2) Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth or tissue when you sneeze or cough;
- 3) Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water;
- 4) Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces;
- 5) Avoid shaking hands; bump fists or elbows when you greet others;
- 6) Maintain a social distance of six feet or more when possible; and
- 7) Open doors and flip switches with an elbow or knuckle.

“We are making some temporary changes to mitigate the spread of the virus and preserve a safe environment for our employees,” Schriver said. “If we can keep things focused toward work, we can keep the co-op focused on serving our members.”

Schriver urged everyone to be careful, since the virus has not peaked in this country.

“If you are sick, please stay home,” he said.