

**From:** [Kimberly Lile Dowty](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Lile Dowty](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DETCOG Update from Lonnie  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 12:41:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Lonnie Hunt <[lhunt@detcog.gov](mailto:lhunt@detcog.gov)>  
**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 5:57 PM  
**To:** All Staff <[broadcast@detcog.gov](mailto:broadcast@detcog.gov)>  
**Subject:** DETCOG Update from Lonnie

May 3, 2020

To: All DETCOG Employees (*Copied to Board of Directors*)

I'm sitting here on a Sunday afternoon, watching the news and reflecting on all the things going on around us. I wanted to check in and provide you with an update, and a special message.

I'll start with the special message. You can hear it by clicking on the link below. I don't know Tabitha Brown and had never heard of her until today. But I'm sharing her message in case you need to hear it. Or maybe you have a friend or loved one who needs it. It is simple and sincere, yet powerful. Click this link to hear it: [Message from Tabitha Brown](#)

I continue to be very proud of the important work you are getting done every day. With a partial re-opening of businesses in Texas, you may be wondering when things will return to normal at DETCOG. The answer is still, I don't know. But we will not rush things. At present, we still have 10 people working in the building on any given day. Some people come in one day a week, a very few are there most days, and many continue to work from home full time. When we determine the time is right, we will start increasing the number of days you come into the office gradually. Right now, if there are things you need to do that you can't get done in your present work-at-home situation, talk to your supervisor about it. It is important that all our work gets done, and you are doing a magnificent job of it! If we need to make further adjustments or provide additional technology, we will.

I've asked Program Directors for input on safeguards we can put in place to maintain a safe workspace moving forward. A couple of suggestions include checking everyone's temperature when we enter the building, requiring everyone to immediately go and wash hands upon entering the building....things like that. If you have suggestions, please let me know. We're working on a questionnaire that all employees will be required to complete. I don't want to overreact -- I just want to keep us all safe and healthy.

You can see from the numbers in the table below that the cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Deep East Texas -- 443 known cases as of yesterday. We do know that people are recovering, but the recovery process is slow, and it is impossible to get an accurate count of the number of recoveries.

IMPORTANT: Nothing we can do will ever take the place of **you** making smart decisions on your own. Please don't take risks. Be smart and stay healthy. If we all do this -- both while we're working and when we are off work -- we'll be fine and things will get back to normal sooner.

## **REPORTED CASES OF COVID-19 IN DEEP EAST TEXAS**

*(UPDATED 5-2-20)*

| County        | Cases | Deaths |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| Angelina      | 55    | 0      |
| Houston       | 9     | 0      |
| Jasper        | 26    | 2      |
| Nacogdoches   | 169   | 8      |
| Newton        | 2     | 0      |
| Polk          | 20    | 0      |
| Sabine        | 1     | 0      |
| San Augustine | 19    | 1      |
| San Jacinto   | 10    | 0      |
| Shelby        | 117   | 1      |
| Trinity       | 9     | 0      |
| Tyler         | 6     | 0      |
| Region Total  | 443   | 12     |

Here's to a healthy and productive work week ahead!

Lonnie