Dear Lubbock and Surrounding Counties,

We want to keep you informed regarding the steps SPFB is taking regarding the ongoing news around Coronavirus (COVID-19), and that we are monitoring the situation through reliable resources like the Feeding America, Feeding Texas, Texas Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the City of Lubbock. At the South Plains Food Bank, there is no higher priority than the safety of our volunteers, staff and the community we serve. Keeping a clean facility and following best practices for food safety are part of our culture. We realize that with any new illness there is uncertainty and concern. We ask that you help partner with us and concentrate on the facts and preventative measures. While the risk is currently low in Texas, and there are no reported cases in our immediate area, we are taking all necessary steps to provide a healthy environment for our community.

As this situation unfolds, the need for food assistance in our community persists. At this time, volunteer sessions are planned to run as scheduled. Our network of 150 partner agencies as well as different programs will remain open. We are asking volunteers and staff who have experienced any symptoms of illness or have traveled to high-risk countries within the last 14 days to stay home.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have postponed our Agency Conference which was scheduled to be March 25th here at SPFB. We look forward to rescheduling this event for a later date. We are in touch with our local partners should there be a need for more special responses to serve those affected. We are ready to help however we can.

The need for food in our community was already at an all-time high. The economic impact of COVID-19 will likely increase that need in the coming weeks and months. But we are reassured by our incredible network of supporters, volunteers and partners. Community members like you allow us to continue our fight against hunger in all aspects. On behalf of South Plains Food Bank and the people we serve, thank you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[3/12/2020]