



Justin W. Lewis

P.O. Box 457
Hillsboro TX 76645

HILL COUNTY JUDGE

(254) 582-4020
countyjudge@co.hill.tx.us

Date: March 30, 2020 - For Immediate Release

Press Release

Hillsboro, TX – As Hill County reported on Friday, The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently reporting one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Hill County and 2,877 cases in Texas with 38 fatalities. While many people have asked County officials for more information on the confirmed case in Hill County, DSHS has not provided us details on the patient or their location. While Texas and the United States continue in the acceleration phase of this pandemic, the number of confirmed cases in our area and our state will continue to rise daily, especially as the testing capabilities continue to expand.

“This week is pivotal for us in flattening the curve on the spread of the Coronavirus,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Now that we have a confirmed case in Hill County, we must stay calm, be even more diligent in practicing social distancing, washing our hands and staying home except for essential functions. These efforts are working to help slow the spread,” continued Lewis. “We are in contact with DSHS on a regular basis to have the most reliable information available to share with our residents. However, we feel the flow of information is still slow to come to us, and we keep working with our state partners to streamline that process and get information more quickly. As we make progress, we will do our best to keep everyone informed.”

To support our healthcare professionals, it is also important for individuals to call ahead if you are seeking medical treatment for the virus or other issues. You can receive instructions on any changes to the intake process in response to the Coronavirus outbreak to help protect yourself and others.

In addition to the community mitigation efforts, the State and Federal Governments continue to issue new executive orders and guidelines to assist in slowing the spread of Coronavirus. Over the weekend, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued new executive orders increasing mandatory self-quarantine requirements for people traveling by roadway from Louisiana and he added several states to the list of locations requiring self-quarantine for entering the state via air travel. Governor Abbott also announced the first location which has been identified for creating additional medical care facilities should the need arise in the coming weeks. That location is the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. Governor Abbott also issued an executive order limiting the ability of certain violent offenders to post a personal bond for bail. President Trump extended the deadline for social distancing until April 30th.

“As we see from the new executive orders and extension of our social distancing guidelines, we are still anticipating being several weeks away from the peak of this outbreak, and we continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis to adjust our local response as warranted,” said Lewis. “We appreciate everyone’s efforts at voluntary compliance, and now is the time to strengthen those efforts even more. Taking responsibility for our own actions is the best defense we have at our disposal,” continued Lewis.

-more-

While monitoring our physical health at this time is important, monitoring mental well-being is of equal importance. The Heart of Texas Region MHMR has provided information on how individuals can seek assistance if they have concerns for their mental and emotional health. You can call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746 for access to immediate counseling for anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. The Helpline is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week and free resource that responds to people who need crisis counseling and support in dealing with the traumatic effects of a natural or human-caused disaster. The Helpline is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Helpline specialists are trained to assist callers who have a range of symptoms.

The DSHS has a dashboard website for following the spread of Coronavirus across Texas. To track information on a statewide level, please visit <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.

People interested in monitoring updates from Hill County on the situation will find the most current information on the Hill County Emergency Management Facebook Page. The County will also provide regular updates to *KHBR 1560 AM Radio* and the *Hillsboro Reporter*.

In addition, the County has an emergency notification system. If you would like to receive phone call, text or email updates as warranted, you can register with the Hill County Emergency Notification System. Visit the Office of Emergency Management website at www.hilloem.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on emergency alerts. Follow the prompts to set up your account.

-30-