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Press Release**

Hillsboro, TX – Hill County added another case of COVID-19 to its tally today. This change reported by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) brings the total count up to 24. The new case is a female in the Aquilla area. Another change in the DSHS report today included a move of lost to follow up cases from the active to not active status which changes our statistics. Of the 24 cases there are 11 recoveries, 10 active cases, 2 lost-to-follow-up/not-active and 1 deceased. Statewide numbers report 53,449 cases in Texas with 1,480 patients hospitalized, and 1,480 fatalities.

“Adding another case to our count as we move into the Memorial Day Weekend is not how we wanted to end our week,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “However, this time also makes me reflect on the sacrifices each generation of Americans has made to protect our way of life. In every other situation I can think of, Americans have been asked to put their life on the line to preserve our liberties. In this instance, while everything has been inconvenient, we have been asked to protect ourselves to keep America strong. So, while this is not how we wanted to start the weekend, I will move forward with a grateful heart for the sacrifices made across the years to afford us the opportunities we have today,” stated Lewis.

“We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend, but please be mindful of the distancing guidelines and other protective measures we are asking everyone to voluntarily comply with to continue to keep the Coronavirus in check,” said Lewis. “We must not have a spike in numbers if we want to keep our businesses open and continue to open more of our daily activities,” stated Lewis. “Taking responsibility for our actions is the best way to control our destiny. Hill County Residents have been phenomenal through all of this, and we cannot let down our guard, yet,” continued Lewis.

Information on the guidelines to follow as business operations and recreational activities reopen can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/opentexas>.

Information on the spread of the Coronavirus across Texas is available at the DSHS dashboard website, <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>. To monitor updates from Hill County, the most current information will be provided on the Hill County Emergency Management Facebook Page and *KHBR 1560 AM Radio* and the *Hillsboro Reporter*.