



## COUNTY OF WILSON

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April 9, 2020

My fellow Citizens of Wilson County,

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter weekend and observe the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us take a moment to reflect on the crisis at hand. The COVID-19 (coronavirus) does not recognize holidays and is still very much a threat to our community. We may not be able to visit and socialize with family and friends to the extent we would prefer, but we must be diligent in doing our part in controlling this pandemic. While religious services and family gatherings are allowed under Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-14, it is also recommended that social distancing guidelines are observed. Limit gatherings to 10 people or less and stay at least 6 feet apart. When this pandemic ends, normal greetings such as hugs and handshakes can resume. The social and economic strain on our society has been great, but we must stay strong and abide by orders and guidelines of our Government leaders to help get through this.

As of now Wilson County has had nine positive tests for coronavirus. Of those cases, seven were travel related, one was through household transmission, and one was community spread. Thankfully, three of these cases have recovered so far. We remain optimistic that the others will as well. On our Wilson County Website, we have posted up-to-date numbers of cases in Wilson County. In almost all of our reported cases, the patients have been isolated. Only one actually caused public health authorities to investigate a possible public exposure (at the HEB in LaVernia on Wednesday March 18 from 9 am through noon. I am glad to report that the incubation period for this exposure has passed.) This information was posted on our website and Facebook page last week.

One reoccurring question my office has received is why the County is not releasing more information about our local cases. The answer is because we simply do not have much information to pass on. We pass on what we receive from our Local Health Authority. Wilson County does not have one of our own. TDSHS Region 8 acts as our Local Health Authority. Because of legal guidelines related to patient privacy that the TDSHS has to follow, we are provided limited information. The information that Wilson County has been passing along is entirely what we have received from the TDSHS. We will continue to keep you in the loop as much as we can.

In closing, I want to stress again that we all need to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. President Trump has recommended the wearing of masks in public and I highly encourage this. If you are not at work at an essential business you should be at home and only leaving for essential needs. It is my hope that despite all the stress and anxiety you each have been experiencing since this began, that you may still be able to enjoy your families and realize your blessings this Easter Weekend. The County is still working hard to protect you and your families because we are all in this together.

Wilson County Judge

Richard L. Jackson