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COUNTY OF WILSON

April 30, 2020

To The Citizens of Wilson County;

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its economic impact, and the adjustments we have had to make to our social interactions are things I never imagined I would have to deal with as your County Judge. To see our lives, livelihoods, and everyday routines come to a halt has been quite a shock. It has been like a bad dream come true: buildings with no occupants, streets with no traffic, people guarding themselves from their loved ones. These disturbing sights have been hard to get used to.

The good news so far is that Governor Abbott has started to allow for the reopening of the state by allowing some businesses such as restaurants, retail stores, malls, theaters, museums and libraries to resume business on May 1 at twenty-five (25%) percent of recommended occupancy. Sporting events with four or fewer participants such as golf or tennis are also able to resume. Other businesses will be able to open up mid-May or during the Governor's third phase, which is slated tentatively to begin on May 18.

However, with all this happening, we have to remember that the coronavirus will still be here among us. And affecting people we may care about. Because no vaccine has been approved yet for the coronavirus, social distancing should still be practiced, face coverings should still be worn, and gatherings should be limited to 10 people at least six feet apart, unless members of the same household. However, if you feel uncomfortable in public at this stage, please feel free to stay home and stay isolated.

The Frank Tejada Veteran's Home is still struggling to deal with the coronavirus. At this time, there have been fourteen residents and eight staff members that have tested positive for the virus. Of the staff, five are Wilson County residents and three are Bexar County residents. As such, these three are not included on our Wilson County Case Count. All affected staff members are isolated at home. Of the fourteen residents, unfortunately, three have passed. The rest are either isolated in their room at the Veteran's Home or hospitalized in Bexar County.

It is not time yet to get back to business as usual. Social events and vacations should not be planned until it is safe to do so. If you are able to go back to work, CDC guidelines should be strictly observed. We have not seen the light at the end of the tunnel yet, but I believe we are getting closer to the world as we once knew it. Stay home, stay safe, and be patient.

Wilson County Judge

Richard L. Jackson