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**Date: April 22, 2020 - For Immediate Release
Press Release**

Hillsboro, TX – Hill County cases of COVID-19 increased overnight from 11 to 13 according to the Local Health Authority. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is only showing 12 cases at this time, and details on the new cases are not yet available. Statewide numbers report 21,069 cases in Texas with 1,678 patients hospitalized, 543 fatalities and an estimated 7,341 individuals recovered.

“We are sorting out the information on the new cases, and we will share that as we can, but what we do know is this means more exposure has occurred in our County, and we must do all we can to protect ourselves and our neighbors,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, please take precautions and contact a healthcare provider. Your symptoms may be mild, but that doesn’t mean the same will be true for someone who contracts the illness from you, stay home if you are sick” continued Lewis.

“We are working with DSHS to increase the testing capabilities in Hill County. As details on that solidify, we will be able to have more people tested. Invariably, our number of positive cases will increase as a result of more testing, but we will know more about what we are up against,” said Lewis. “Knowledge is power and with it we will be able to select the best and safest strategy for moving forward. Working together is the only way we move through this in an expedited manner. We must take responsibility for our own actions and stay home, especially if you have any possible symptoms of COVID-19”

As limited activities are restarting, it is important to note the Governor’s stay-home except for essential activities order is still in place. Residents should continue to take all precautions available to protect their households. More guidelines on how the reopening will happen are expected to come from Governor Abbott’s office on April 27th.

For the best information available on the spread of the Coronavirus across Texas, DSHS has a dashboard website available at <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.