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Press Release

Hillsboro, TX – Hill County received a no change report from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) today. A no change report means none of the statistics surrounding our existing case count have changed. We still have 23 cases, 11 recoveries, 11 active cases, 2 lost-to-follow-up (which are included in the 11 active case count) and 1 deceased. Statewide numbers report 49,912 cases in Texas with 1,732 patients hospitalized, and 1,369 fatalities. An estimated 29,359 individuals are listed as recovered from the virus while 19,280 are still believed to be active cases.

“Over the last week, Hill County only added one new case to our tally, and half of our cases are reported as recoveries at this point,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “I feel like a broken record, but what we have been saying all along is true. We cannot let our guard down, because the threat is still present, and while we are all looking forward to the new openings announced yesterday by Governor Abbott, this new case is a reminder that we must take the new guidelines and safety protocols seriously to keep our infection numbers down as we increase our daily interactions,” stated Lewis.

Yesterday’s announcements by Governor Abbott allowed some personal service and childcare businesses to reopen immediately. May 22nd is the date restaurants can move to a 50% occupancy rate, and the same day bars, wineries, craft breweries and other entertainment businesses may reopen at 25% of their building capacity. The day given to youth sports camps and leagues and some professional sports to begin operations was May 31st. These new guidelines apply to all areas of the state except for the areas around Amarillo and El Paso where outbreaks are occurring at a rapid rate currently. A complete listing of businesses, organizations and new activities allowed and the new guidelines they must operate under can be found by visiting gov.texas.gov/opentexas.

“We are doing our best to summarize new information as it becomes available, however, I encourage all of you to read the Governor’s Report to Open Texas and all of the addendums that have been added since it was initially published,” said Lewis. “We are able to hit the highlights, but there are extensive guidelines that businesses must adhere to in their day-to-day operations as they reopen, and operators and consumers alike must educate themselves,” stated Lewis. “It’s the only way to stay safe and keep everything moving forward.”

Consumers and business owners seeking information on the guidelines to follow as operations reopen can visit <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*.