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Press Release**

Hillsboro, TX – Overnight, another case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Hill County bringing the total number in Hill County to 18, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) report. The 17th reported case is a female in her thirties from Hillsboro, and the 18th is a male in his thirties from Hillsboro. Of those cases, DSHS shows 5 as recovered and 1 deceased leaving 12 active cases. Texas Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference today adding some modifications and clarifications to his executive orders from last week. He also reported the following statewide numbers; 33,369 cases in Texas have been diagnosed with 15,672 reported as active and 16,791 listed as recoveries, further numbers 906 fatalities and 1,888 of the active cases currently hospitalized.

“While it was encouraging to hear Governor Abbott say Texas has had more recoveries than new cases for four days in a row, we are still having new cases in Hill County, so that means now more than ever it is important for everyone to follow the social distancing guidelines as we move to reopen our businesses and bring back more and more of our daily activities,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “We are in the process of gathering information on all of Governor Abbott’s announcements from today, so we can provide correct and detailed information to the residents of Hill County,” continued Lewis.

The modifications and clarifications to executive orders issued last week by Governor Abbott included the announcement that this Friday, May 8th, many of our self-care businesses including hair salons and barber shops will be allowed to reopen. On May 18th, gyms and physical fitness businesses will be allowed to reopen with occupancy restrictions and other limitations. Tomorrow, Hill County will provide an in-depth look at which businesses are included in the May 8th and 18th openings as well as additional information on the restrictions placed on their operations. Today’s announcement also explained that people visiting lakes, rivers and beaches should follow the same social distancing guidelines put forth for those using parks for their recreation activities

“There was a tremendous amount of new material put out from the State of Texas today,” said Lewis. “That’s a good thing, because it means we’re finding our way through this situation, but it also means that just as we get used to one set of rules for operating, they change,” stated Lewis. “So, we’re working to sort through all of the new information to provide the best answers we can for the residents of Hill County,” continued Lewis. “Hill County residents have worked hard to adhere to the rules and get us to this point. I know we will continue to make great strides moving forward, but we must continue to be diligent in our resolve to slow the spread of this life-threatening virus. Thank you to everyone for protecting one another.”

Residents should continue to take all precautions available to protect their households. If individuals or businesses need assistance during this time, please visit the website, www.raisinghilltx.com, for a listing of available resources in our area.

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*.

