



Justin W. Lewis

P.O. Box 457
Hillsboro TX 76645

HILL COUNTY JUDGE

(254) 582-4020
countyjudge@co.hill.tx.us

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Press Release**

Hillsboro, TX – A new case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Hill County overnight moving the total to 19 according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) report. Of those, DSHS shows 8 recoveries, 10 active cases, and 1 deceased. Statewide numbers report 36,609 cases in Texas with 1,734 patients hospitalized, and 1,004 fatalities. An estimated 19,197 individuals are listed as recovered from the virus while 16,408 are still believed to be active cases.

“As we reopened some businesses today, we also confirmed a new case of COVID-19,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “This is a reminder that while we’re making progress, the fight is not yet over,” continued Lewis. “Please help us keep moving forward by taking all recommended precautions when you’re out in public. Stay socially distanced, wear a mask and wash your hand frequently,” stated Lewis.

As businesses reopen and daily activities resume, there are still restrictions and guidelines in place for how events and activities should be handled. Many businesses are limited to a 25% occupancy inside their buildings, and some are required to put extra sanitation and protection measures in place including a minimum of six feet between workstations or seating areas. For members of the public it is recommended that you always wear a mask when out in public settings.

The State of Texas officials will continue monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and use Surge Teams to help manage any hot spots where a spike of new cases occurs as everyone begins their daily routines again. If statewide infections begin to grow at an unacceptable rate, restrictions could be resumed if needed.

“As we move into the weekend, please enjoy the time with family but remember to adhere to the guidelines and recommendations to help protect one another,” said Lewis. “We look forward to reopening Hill County, but we must do our best to keep everyone safe in the process,” finished Lewis.

Consumers and business owners seeking information on the guidelines to follow as operations reopen can visit <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/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*.