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Press Release**

**Hillsboro, TX** – The number of cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in Hill County. Today’s report from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) shows the caseload increased by two over the weekend bringing the total number of cases to 36. The new cases are both in the Hillsboro area. Of the Hill County cases, DSHS reports 15 as active, 15 recovered, 1 deceased and 5 as an unknown status. Statewide numbers on the DSHS website as of 5:30pm show 89,108 cases in Texas with 2,326 patients hospitalized, and 1,983 fatalities. 59,089 of the cases are estimated to be recovered while 28,036 of the cases are still listed as active, according to DSHS.

“New cases are still coming in, and while that was expected to occur as restrictions were lifted, it’s still very worrisome to see this many positive cases in such a short time,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “We know we have community spread, and as we have said all along, the best way to protect yourself is to take responsibility for your own actions, limit your exposure to large numbers of people and follow the CDC guidelines on sanitation, social distancing, and mask wearing,” continued Lewis. “Nothing can guarantee you will not contract the virus but taking these steps has proven to be the most effective defense strategy to date.”

The number of active cases in Hill County currently stands at 15, so in accordance with Governor Abbott’s executive orders, only restaurants can move to the 75% occupancy at this time. Other businesses must remain in the allowable percentages of phase two opening guidelines.

“While we still have ample beds available in hospitals statewide to treat COVID-19 cases, we continue to see an increase in the number of patients hospitalized on a daily basis,” stated Lewis. “Following the guidelines to protect ourselves and our families, friends and neighbors is the best way to help keep the spread moving slowly enough that it does not overwhelm our medical infrastructure,” continued Lewis. “We may not all be on the front lines, but we all have a role to play in keeping our economy open as safely as possible.”

Please review information on the guidelines to follow as business operations and recreational activities reopen at <https://open.texas.gov/>

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*.

