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Press Release

Hillsboro, TX – As Governor Greg Abbott issues new executive orders to attempt to reverse the trend on the spread of COVID-19, Hill County adds another 4 cases overnight and now has 48 active cases out of 74 confirmed positive cases since tracking by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) began in February. Of the 74 confirmed positive cases, 50 of them were added just during the month of June. Two of the new cases are located in Whitney, 1 is in Itasca and 1 in Blum.

Executive order GA-28 issued on June 26 restricting public gatherings was updated today to limit all gatherings, indoor and outdoor to no more than 10 people unless a mayor or county judge approves an exception. This order goes into effect at 12:01 pm on Friday, July 3rd. Abbott also issued executive order GA-29 today requiring everyone in counties with 20 or more cases to wear a mask in any public building unless eating or drinking. The order includes a few medical exceptions, and the complete orders can be found at www.gov.texas.gov.

“Our numbers are continuing to climb as we move into this holiday weekend, and with the new orders issued by Governor Abbott today, we all need to give serious thought about how we spend our time this holiday weekend,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “With the rate of increases in cases DSHS is challenged to keep up and conduct follow up to know what the outcome of the cases are and when they can be removed from the active list. I wish I had more accurate information to provide, but DSHS is the official source of information, and I am beholden to them to provide the best information possible.”

“As I have been saying, I believe now more than ever it is important for us to take time to celebrate this Fourth of July,” continued Lewis. “We have had a challenging few months, and we all need something fun and positive to look forward to. However, if we are not cautious and careful about how we conduct ourselves during the weekend, the rate of spread of the virus will outgrow our ability to treat those who are infected. So, to keep from reverting to an even more restrictive environment, we must exercise diligence in our decision making and take personal responsibility for our actions. Social gatherings are now limited to 10 or fewer people without receiving authorization from local authorities, and we must wear our masks inside public buildings, so that drastically limits our options, but we should still remember the reason we have a long weekend. We are the only ones who can control how much COVID-19 impacts our communities. Please follow these new orders, so we can begin moving forward again soon,” continued Lewis.

“Even with all the challenges of 2020, there’s still no place I’d rather live than here. We are blessed with a unique lifestyle, and I hope everyone will take a moment over the weekend to think about the sacrifices made by all generations to create, build and sustain the American way of life. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy, and we must not forget these sacrifices and continue to do our part, because if we don’t, our way of life will be lost,” concluded Lewis.

For complete information on Governor Abbott’s executive orders, please visit <https://gov.texas.gov> . In addition to checking with local news outlets on the requirements in a specific region, please review information on the guidelines to follow as business operations and recreational activities reopen at <https://open.texas.gov/>