



Justin W. Lewis

P.O. Box 457
Hillsboro TX 76645

HILL COUNTY JUDGE

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

Date: March 19, 2020 - For Immediate Release

Contact: Hill County Emergency Management

Hillsboro, TX – As of March 19, Hill County still has no confirmed cases of COVID-19, however, Texas declared a public health disaster, the first since 1901. Following that declaration, Governor Abbott issued an executive order requiring all bars, dining rooms, restaurants and gyms across the state to be closed to walk-in traffic from midnight March 20th until midnight April 3rd, temporarily closing all schools until April, 3rd, limiting visitation to nursing homes to critical medical personnel only, and limiting social gatherings to no more than 10 individuals.

In a proactive move to position Hill County to receive the maximum amount of support available to manage the stress on our healthcare infrastructure and economy, Hill County Judge Justin Lewis issued a County Judge Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency. This action will make the County eligible to receive reimbursements for any expenses incurred as we move forward through this situation.

“We appreciate everyone who is voluntarily following the CDC guidelines for hygiene and social distancing, and we cannot emphasize enough how important compliance with these guidelines are to limit the spread of COVID-19. Please continue your vigilance and help take care of any of our neighbors who fall into the most vulnerable populations susceptible to this illness,” said Judge Lewis.

The most current numbers from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) indicate 2,335 people have been tested for COVID-19 and 143 cases in Texas have been confirmed. Of these cases, 30 are hospitalized and 3 deaths have occurred. Most people contracting the virus can be cared for at home with only mild symptoms occurring. People are being asked to treat at home when possible, but if you feel medical attention is warranted, please contact your health care provider in advance of showing up for care, so you can receive instructions on where to go and how to proceed. This is essential to help minimize exposure for others.

“Most cases of COVID-19 are mild and will not require medical attention and can be treated at home. Please do not go to the hospital unless you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms,” said Lewis.

People interested in monitoring updates on the situation will find the most current information on the Hill County Emergency Management Facebook Page. The County will also provide regular updates to *KHBR 1560 AM Radio* and the *Hillsboro Reporter*.

In addition, the County has an emergency notification system. If you would like to receive phone call, text or email updates as warranted, you can register with the Hill County Emergency Notification System. Visit the Office of Emergency Management website at www.hilloem.com, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on emergency alerts. Follow the prompts to set up your account.