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Press Release

Hillsboro, TX –COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Texas. The numbers reported on March 24th were the first ones following the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) changed methodology for reporting cases of COVID-19, so we saw a substantial increase in their reported number of cases on March 24th, and the numbers from March 25th continued the acceleration trend. Texas now has 974 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across 82 counties which have resulted in 13 deaths.

“While Hill County has not had a confirmed case, yet, a significant number of rural counties have now reported cases. It will hit Hill County, but the DSHS continues to emphasize to us that while Texas cases are growing, we are not increasing as rapidly as other areas of the Country. They attribute that to Texans’ efforts in social distancing and limiting movements in our community to essential functions only,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Adhering to the executive orders and voluntary guidelines for social distancing and hygiene practices and staying home whenever possible are the best defenses we have to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the residents of Hill County.”

The DSHS says community mitigation efforts are being helpful, but more people adhering to the guidelines will make the efforts even more effective. In addition to staying home whenever possible, covering your coughs, washing your hands, and social distancing, individuals are urged to call ahead if you are seeking medical treatment for the virus or other issues. You can receive instructions on any changes to their intake process in response to the Coronavirus outbreak to help protect yourself and others.

“While we can’t emphasize enough how important the efforts of our frontline defenders are in fighting the battle against COVID-19, it is the individual efforts that are put forth to be responsible for ourselves that will ultimately win the war. I do not have the words to explain how important that is,” said Lewis.

Mild cases can be treated at home, and the Center for Disease Control has developed a self-checker tool to help people determine whether they should seek medical attention. The self-checker can be found on the DSHS website at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus along with other information related to the Coronavirus outbreak. If you have extreme shortness of breath or other critical medical symptoms, you should seek help immediately.

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DSHS is encouraging people to use the #Texansstayhome phrase on social media postings to show your support for the efforts we are all taking to stop the spread. A community-minded approach will get us all through this more quickly than anything else we can do.

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.