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Press Release**

**Hillsboro, TX** – The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) report maintained the number of COVID-19 cases for Hill County at sixteen. Statewide numbers report 27,054 cases in Texas with 1,702 patients hospitalized, 732 fatalities and an estimated 12,507 individuals recovered.

“Our number of cases held steady overnight, and we are continuing to monitor testing results,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Tomorrow, many of our businesses will have the option to reopen under some specific guidelines. Many have chosen to continue operations as they have been for the time being, and others will reopen the stores and dining rooms,” continued Lewis. “We are encouraging everyone to support our local businesses by maintaining social distancing guidelines, wearing face masks when out in public, and washing hands on a frequent basis. By doing these things while participating in more of our daily activities, we will help ensure the phase one of reopening Texas is successful, and we will create the opportunity to move to phase two. If we get careless in our safety procedures, we will allow the spread to increase and potentially halt our ability to move forward. We might even have to take some steps back, and none of us want that. Please take this seriously and protect yourself, your loved ones, your neighbors and our businesses that are working so hard to provide you with important services and build a strong economy,” finished Lewis.

Business owners seeking information on how they can begin to restart more normal operations can reference Governor Abbott’s report, Texans Helping Texans: The Governor’s Report to Open Texas. The report can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>. It provides guidelines for businesses as well as their customers on safe practices to best protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19.

“These new developments bring hope, but we must balance that hope with a strong resolve to maintain safety procedures,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “If we can’t do that, we will lose the forward progress we have made, and none of us want that,” stated Lewis. “Hill County residents have been committed to doing whatever was necessary to protect ourselves and our neighbors, and I am confident our actions in this next phase will continue to showcase our strong will and commitment to each other’s well-being,” continued Lewis.

Residents should continue to take all precautions available to protect their households. If individuals or businesses need assistance during this time, please visit the website, [www.raisinghill.com](http://www.raisinghill.com), for a listing of available resources in our area.

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*.