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Press Release**

Hillsboro, TX – Today, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) report maintained the number of COVID-19 cases for Hill County at sixteen (16). Of those sixteen (16) cases, DSHS shows five (5) as recovered and one (1) deceased leaving ten (10) active cases. Monitoring and testing for infections continues, and the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) along with Hill County and other partner organizations will have a mobile testing site at Hillsboro High School this Sunday, May 3rd from 8am to 5pm. Statewide numbers report 29,229 cases in Texas with 1,778 patients hospitalized, 816 fatalities and an estimated 14,122 individuals recovered. According to Johns Hopkins, the United States currently has 1,094,640 confirmed cases with 64,323 deaths and 159,663 recovered individuals.

“We continue to work with DSHS, TDEM and other State agencies to provide as many resources to our residents as possible,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Individuals who want to be tested for COVID-19 at the mobile clinic will go through a screening process just like others being tested at public and private facilities,” continued Lewis. “Because tests are limited, the State must insure they are being used in a way that protects the most people possible. With more testing available in our county, I will not be surprised if we see a rise in the number of local cases next week, but that is the purpose of testing. The more cases we can identify, the better we can manage the spread and plan our actions accordingly,” stated Lewis.

Tests at the mobile facility are scheduled no more than 24 hours in advance. For anyone interested in being tested, they should call 512-883-2400 or visit TXCOVIDTEST.org Saturday May 2nd to be screened to determine their eligibility to be tested. Once a person is cleared to be tested, an appointment will be scheduled. No pets are allowed in the car with the individual at the time the test is administered. Currently, the mobile testing unit is only scheduled to be in Hill County for one day, but the Whitney Medical Urgent Care Facility, Whitney Family Medical, and Hill Regional Hospital have testing available on a daily basis.

“While much emphasis this last week has been on the reopening of some business sectors, we must also remember that new cases of the virus are occurring on a daily basis,” said Lewis. “Continued testing is necessary to make sure everything is moving in the right direction and that we make adjustments as needed to ensure a safe, lasting re-opening of Texas.” stated Lewis. “It’s also important to remember that local businesses are not the only ones feeling the effects of this pandemic. County governments, municipalities and school districts are just a few of the entities struggling with finding new ways to conduct business and keep moving forward. That’s why I appreciate the fact that the State has appointed Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service to be an information resource and liaison for us. That partnership is invaluable, and we will be working with them in the coming weeks as we develop our best paths forward,” continued Lewis.

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“I know that this has been a difficult time for our community, but we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. I appreciate all that you, the people of Hill County, have done to come together and pull us through this trying time. Thank you all for your efforts to keep yourself and each other safe.” stated Judge Lewis.

Local government and school district representatives can contact the Hill County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office at 254-582-4022. Consumers and business owners seeking information on the guidelines to follow as some operations reopen can reference Governor Abbott’s report, *Texans Helping Texans: The Governor’s Report to Open Texas* at:

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

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, 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*.