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Press Release

Hillsboro, TX – The count of COVID-19 cases in Hill County increased by one overnight according to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). This brings the total number of cases in Hill County to 22. Statewide numbers report 43,851 cases in Texas with 1,648 patients hospitalized, and 1,216 fatalities. An estimated 24,487 individuals are listed as recovered from the virus while 18,148 are still believed to be active cases.

“Throughout this process the DSHS has continued to refine their reporting process, and we are receiving increased information on their daily reports,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “This allows us to have a better view of our situation as we make plans to move forward,” continued Lewis. “The addition of another case today tells us there is still reason to be cautious as we increase our daily activities,” stated Lewis.

Of the 22 cases in Hill County, DSHS shows 10 recoveries, 9 active cases, 1 not-active case, 1 lost-to-follow-up and 1 deceased. The not-active and lost-to-follow-up are new categories on the DSHS report. The lost-to-follow-up status means DSHS has attempted to contact a patient no less than three times to determine whether they have recovered without connecting with the patient. Once a case has been on the lost-to-follow-up list for more than 30 days, the patient is moved to the not-active cases to show the most accurate picture of case status in Hill County as possible. In addition to monitoring known cases, the State is encouraging people to be tested for COVID-19 to help increase the accuracy of the case count and develop the best method for moving Texas to the next phase of reopening.

A mobile clinic is scheduled for this Friday, May 15th at Hillsboro High School from 8am to 5pm. Screening will be less restrictive than it was for the first mobile clinic that was held on May 3rd, and anyone interested in being tested is encouraged to contact the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to schedule an appointment. You may schedule an appointment beginning on May 14th at www.txcovidtest.org or 512-883-2400. Scheduling will continue through the day on the 15th even while tests are being administered. These tests are only for the presence of the virus and do not test for the existence of antibodies.

“We received several questions about what the not-active status on the DSHS report meant, and it took us a few days to receive an answer, but we stayed with it,” said Lewis. “If something is important to our residents, it is important to us, and we will do our best to answer logical questions, but we want to make sure we are doing so with accurate information,” stated Lewis. “We appreciate everyone working with us and recognizing that we are all learning together as we go through this. One way to help us increase our knowledge is to have a larger percentage of our residents tested for the presence of COVID-19 That is why it is crucial to have people take advantage of the mobile testing unit tomorrow. Please participate if you can”

Information on the spread of the Coronavirus across Texas is available at the DSHS dashboard website, <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.