

Hill County Operational Changes Report

5.21.2020 as of reports received by 7pm

County Operation Updates

911 Addressing Office – By appointment only. Most requests for services can be handled via phone Extension Service – Offices are open by appointment only, all meetings and face-to-face programming have been canceled through May 4th. All travel around the County is required to be approved by administration as mission critical to be allowed.

Tax Office – Closed to public traffic but most operations can be handled via online services.

District Clerk – Closed to walk-in traffic but for pro-se filings, call for an appointment

District Attorney - Open

County Clerk – Closed to Public Traffic, marriage license by appointment only

County Attorney – Open by Appointment Only

Auditor’s Office – Open

Treasurer’s Office - By Appointment Only

District Judge – Open by Appointment Only but holding court for essential cases

County Court at Law - Open by Appointment Only but holding court for essential cases

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 – Closed to public traffic but most operations can be handled via online services and phone calls

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 – Closed to public traffic but most operations can be handled via online services and phone calls.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 –Lobby closed. Available by phone and email.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 - Open

Veterans Service – Open by appointment only

County Judge and Commissioners – All open for business as normal

Election Services – Open

Sheriff’s Office – Operations as normal but complying with state mandate of Jail Commission for no visitors allowed at jail. Walk-ins are being screened

County Constables – Operations as normal

Schools

Hill College - Registration for the May-mini, summer and fall terms continues. To register for class, contact the Academic Advising and Success Center staff at advising@hillcollege.edu. The term dates and course delivery methods are listed below. As restrictions are lifted, we will adjust the class schedule to offer some face-to-face and blended classes.

- May Mini (May 18 – June 4, 2020) – online instruction only
- Summer 11 Week (May 21 – August 6, 2020) – Academic courses online; Career and Technical courses online as much as possible
- Summer 9 Week (June 8 – August 6, 2020) – Academic courses online; Career and Technical courses online as much as possible
- Summer I: 5 Week (June 8 – July 9, 2020) – Academic courses online; Career and Technical courses online as much as possible
- Summer II: 5 Week (July 13 – August 13, 2020) – Academic courses online; Career and Technical courses online as much as possible
- Continuing Education courses will continue to be assessed.
- Fall (August 24 – December 10, 2020) – courses will continue to be assessed.

Hill College offices will continue to be closed to the public until further notice. All college buildings are locked; therefore, students and visitors should not come to campus.

All college events will continue to be cancelled, rescheduled or conducted virtually.

Public Schools – Governor’s order extended required campus closures to extend through May 4th.

Cities

Mertens – City Offices are closed to foot traffic. All business can be conducted via mail, drop box, email or phone. City Secretary can be reached at 254-221-5620

Hubbard –The City of Hubbard offices are open we had a door bell installed and the clerks meet customers at the front door for business.

Blum – Working only through dropbox and telephone

Itasca – Itasca Volunteer Fire Department Cinco de Mayo Celebration has been canceled. Itasca declared a disaster on 4/20. City Hall is modifying employee hours, and the Easter Egg Hunt that was scheduled for 4/4 has been canceled.

Malone – City of Malone adopted Hill County Hazard Mitigation Plan. City Hall is closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. Business is being handled via email, phone calls and payments in the drop box

Mt. Calm – City of Mt Calm still not opened up for walk-ins. Office closed but city secretary working and taking calls and talking thru Dropbox or window. City of Mt Calm Library temporary hours are 1-4 PM Monday-Tuesday and Thursday. City office closed to the public but city secretary is working and handling all city business by phone or by drop box till 5-18.

Hillsboro –

- The City Council is continuing to meet at Historic City Hall. The room is large enough to allow for proper social distancing and is set up to accommodate that. We have added the capability for people to call in to listen to and participate in the meetings. The call-in number is published with the agenda for each meeting.
- All Mayoral Declarations that were issued early in the pandemic have expired. The City is relying on and following the Executive Orders issued by the Governor.
- Hillsboro EMS is still approaching all calls for service with masks and gloves and asking appropriate screening questions to determine if the person has had any known or likely exposure to COVID-19. The assumption on all calls is that personnel need to always take appropriate steps to limit possible exposure to COVID-19.
- Hillsboro Police Officers are still approaching calls in masks and gloves. If the circumstances with the call warrant it, they are asking appropriate screening questions to determine if the people present have had any known or likely exposure to COVID-19. The assumption on all calls is that personnel need to always take appropriate steps to limit possible exposure to COVID-19.
- The Hillsboro Library is still closed to walk-in traffic. Steps are being taken to establish plexi-glass barriers to assist in providing for proper separation between people. Possible additional precautions are being discussed that would allow the Library to open for walk-in traffic. No decisions have been made yet, and no date for opening to walk-in traffic has been established yet. Patrons are continuing to be served by call-in or email requests to check out books. Staff members are wearing masks and gloves as they handle returned books and materials, and they are taking appropriate measures to clean these items before they are re-circulated.
- The Municipal Court lobby is closed to walk-in traffic. Payments are being made over the phone or through a drop box. We are considering a court date in June that will be conducted via Zoom.
- The Utility Billing lobby is closed to walk-in traffic. Payments can be made over the phone or at the drive-through window.
- The City Administration offices are closed to walk-in traffic. Contact can be made with staff members by phone or by email.

- Permits and Inspections is closed to walk-in traffic. Requests for permits or inspections are being handled online, over the phone, or at the drop box. Payments are being handled by phone or at the drop box.
- All events that had reservations for use of City facilities have been canceled. We have not yet started accepting reservations for use of City facilities. Events sponsored by the City in May, June, July, and August have been cancelled.
- The splash pad at City Park has not been opened due to the difficulty of having users abide by social distancing at that facility.
- Initially seven staff members were working from home. Three have returned to work on-site. Four are continuing to work from home.

Whitney – Disaster Declaration has been issued. City offices operating but closed to walk-in traffic. Library is closed to walk-in traffic

Medical Services

Hill Regional – 119--Tests performed by Hill Regional 5-Positive 112—Negative 2-Pending

. This does not include numbers for Ascension Providence. We have not received information on their numbers at this time. Changes to operations and visiting hours.

- Access point now limited to the Registration & Admitting entrance. (Across from elementary school)
- Admission entrance accessible 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday, Closed Sunday.
- No one under the age of 16 will be allowed to visit patients, only one visitor permitted at a time.
- Verbal screenings and temperature checks will be conducted on all individuals entering Hill Regional.
- Cafeteria is closed to sit-in dining until further notice.

A notice to all local vendors: Only Drew Beardon is authorized to issue a purchase order or purchase an item on behalf of Hill Regional Hospital.

Family Home Health Care of Whitney – No changes to services provided at this time.

Whitney Family Medical Center – Has administered 16 tests for COVID-19. 14 have been returned negative, 2 pending.

Whitney Urgent Care – 86 tests, 4 positive and 82 negative.

. Open with normal operating hours from 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and Sunday 12pm to 6pm. Testing kits for COVID are available, however patients must meet certain CDC guidelines such as running a fever, flu negative, a respiratory condition, or are in a high risk population such as elderly in order to be eligible to be tested. They are not doing drive-through testing and require screening before a decision on whether to administer a test or not will be made.

Utilities

HILCO – HILCO employees whose responsibilities allow them to work from home are now working from home. The Elm Mott Office has been closed and only minimal staff located at remaining 4 business offices. The Civic and Event Center is closed.

Oncor - Implementing changes in the way we perform services in the field and we are committed to meeting the needs of all of our customers. As of today, Oncor offices are closed to the public, we implemented social distancing and temperature screenings at designated entry points. Also, all employees who have the capability to perform their work remotely are being directed to do so.

Churches

Our Daily Bread Food Bank Whitney – Hours of Operation remain the same, but clients are not allowed in the building. They drive up to the warehouse door and communicate with volunteers there. Additional safety precautions are being taken and the pantry is currently well-stocked.

Lake Whitney Ministerial Alliance Benevolence - Clients cannot enter the building

First Baptist Church of Hillsboro – Services for the weekend of March 22 are canceled. Wednesday services for March 25th are cancelled. The Church office is currently opened for normal business hours, and services for March 29th will be evaluated on March 23rd.

King Memorial United Methodist Church, Whitney – As of Sunday, March 15 all face-to-face activities have been suspended. Worship is offered online via Facebook. Sunday School and all other meetings utilize video conferencing. Most of office staff is working from home and office is closed to walk-in traffic.

Isaiah's Place – Office is closed to traffic and all activities are being conducted online via FB live

FUMC Hillsboro – Online only worship via facebook live at 10am on Sundays. No other gatherings are taking place but their office is still open

Church on the Hill – We will reopen services on Saturday May 9th @ 7:00pm and on Sunday May 10th in adherence to Guidelines as recommended by Governor Abbott's office. No coffee and donuts, children's classes or nursery. Suggest that those over 65 stay home another week or two and no offering collections.

Lakenon Baptist – Bible studies have been canceled and Sunday Morning Worship will be broadcast on FB Live at 11am. No onsite service until April and they will revisit extending if circumstances dictate.

First Methodist Church Mt. Calm – closed until 4/5/2020

Church of Christ Mt. Calm – Church of Christ in Mt Calm will open for services effective May 3 according to release from Governor Abbott

Blum Churches – All Blum Churches are currently closed

Businesses

Lake Whitney State Park – Day Use Only will be extended through 5/18 with a phase-in of overnight camping hopefully beginning at that point. Passes for day use must be pre-purchased online before arriving at the park. Reopened for day use only as of April 20th. Hours are 7am to 7pm. Group gatherings of more than 5 are not allowed. Facemasks are required to be worn while at the park.

Cornerstone Funeral Home – Offices remain open, but all memorial services are limited to no more than 10 people in attendance.

Sonic – Itasca – Modified hours 7am to 10pm

Tommy's Restaurant in Blum – food available for pick up orders from 5am to 10pm

RB's Automotive – Problem calls and will pick up cars

Redneck Bar and Grill – Delivery and pickup available

Karen's Burrito Shack Itasca – closed

Citizen's State Bank Itasca – Conducting business through Drive Through Only. Office is closed.

Loretta's Stitch N Stuff - Whitney – Closed until 4/1

Lake Home Realty – Office Closed, but services still being provided remotely

Stitchin' Shack/ UHaul – No Changes to hours, but increased sanitizing efforts and will provide curbside pickup for machine or embroidery jobs and respecting suggested guidelines and monitoring for updates