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**Press Release**

**Hillsboro, TX** – As cases of COVID-19 continue to climb across the State of Texas, Hill County has now reached 40 active cases out of 66 confirmed positive cases since tracking by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) began in February. To combat the surge across Texas, Governor Abbott reinstated restrictions on the operations of certain businesses, halting reopening of the state. Bars, rafting, and tubing businesses are ordered to close, restaurants must move back to 50% occupancy for indoor dining by Monday, and gatherings of more than 100 people will require local approval in order to be held.

“Since restrictions on social gatherings and business operations were loosened at the beginning of June, we have certainly not had the outcome we were all hoping for,” said Hill County Judge Justin Lewis. “Here we are just one month later and the State of Texas is tightening down again in order to protect our healthcare system and keep beds open for COVID-19 to be guaranteed access to treatment if needed,” continued Lewis. “The picture has certainly changed locally, too, and we are seeing the impact across our region.”

The 40 active and 66 confirmed cases breakdown geographically as follows:

Abbott – 3 active cases, total of 3 confirmed positive  
Aquilla – 1 active case, total of 3 confirmed positive  
Blum – 1 active case, total of 1 confirmed positive  
Bynum – 0 active, total of 3 confirmed positive  
Carls Corner – 1 active, total of 1 confirmed positive  
Covington – 0 active, total of 2 confirmed positive  
Hillsboro – 18 actives, total of 30 confirmed positive  
Hubbard – 1 active, total of 2 confirmed positive  
Itasca – 3 actives, total of 7 confirmed positive  
Malone – 1 active, total of 1 confirmed positive  
Mertens – 1 active, total of 1 confirmed positive  
Penelope – 3 actives, total of 3 confirmed positive  
Whitney – 7 actives, total of 8 confirmed positive  
1 confirmed case that is not assigned to any city and is not active

The breakdown of cases by age is as follows:

Age Range;  
10 – 19 – 9 people  
20 – 29 – 11 people  
30 – 39 -- 12 people  
40 – 49 -- 10 people  
50 – 59 -- 9 people  
60 – 69 -- 10 people  
70 – 79 -- 1 person  
80 plus -- 4 people

“As you can see from the numbers, the virus is spread across our county, and it is also represented in each age group. Thankfully, the older populations have fewer instances of the virus, but I attribute that to the group being more protective of their health and limiting their exposure,” continued Lewis. “I believe social distancing, 6 feet between non-related persons, washing your hands often, wearing a mask and staying home if you are sick or have been exposed to someone who is sick are your best tools to protect yourself or others from catching this virus. These are the most proactive steps available to us to stop the spread and help us return to a more traditional way of conducting business and managing our day-to-day affairs,” finished Lewis.

For complete information on Governor Abbott’s executive orders, please visit <https://gov.texas.gov> . In addition to checking with local news outlets on the requirements in a specific region, please review information on the guidelines to follow as business operations and recreational activities reopen at <https://open.texas.gov/>

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*.