

COVID-19 Update

Today is Friday, November 20, 2020.

The latest list from the Tx Dept. of State Health Services dated 11/19/20 reported 2 new cases and 4 cases which had reached the end of isolation requirements. The result of the changes left 2 cases currently active on the list for Thursday. The numbers compiled by the local Clinic are higher and the DSHS list can be deceiving when a delay is noticed before appearing on the DSHS list, however trends and hospital capacities should be valuable, real time information.

The cases I am sharing are a combination of Molecular and Antigen Tests. DSHS only reports positive Molecular Tests as confirmed tests. Positive Antigen Tests are reported as probable positive tests. Both test results we take seriously, so we report them as such.

For perspective, the County has had as many as 13 active cases on the list for the same day in the past. The County's list from DSHS has added 10 cases in the previous 14 days. During this pandemic, which began in March, 91 cases have met their isolation requirements.

The total hospital capacity is a newly measured statistic in Executive Order GA-32 which took effect 10/14/20. The total hospital capacity of the Trauma Service Area (TSA) "D," which includes this County, consists of the 22 Counties and 19 healthcare facilities around Abilene. The hospital capacity is the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases hospitalized divided by the number of staffed and available hospital beds in the TSA. The numbers for TSA "D" on 11/19/20 are 91 COVID-19 cases hospitalized of the 973 beds available for 9% of total hospital capacity. Counties in Trauma Service Areas above 15% for seven consecutive days would trigger an order to reduce capacities as well as other effects under GA-32. The total hospitalized in the TSA is listed as 543 with 91 of those patients tested positive for COVID-19, with 1 ICU bed listed as available in Trauma Service Area "D".

This DSHS list reflects cases from all over the county as well as the communities of Moran, Hamby, Lueders, and of course Albany.

I choose to be optimistic and prayerful that we will come through this pandemic stronger than before the pandemic.

I will continue to communicate the latest information from Dr. Massey with DSHS in Arlington.

Please continue to use common sense and good judgement.
I trust you will limit your exposure as much as you can control.

Join me in prayer for all involved. Thank you to those in our community that doctor us, wait on us, serve us, and those that protect us.

County Judge Bob Skelton

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