

COVID-19 Update

Today is Monday, January 18, 2021.

As you can see for yourself on the Texas Dept. of State Health Services COVID-19 Case Dashboard numbers that are behind the list provided today, the latest information dated 1/18/21 indicated a total of **187** cumulative cases assigned to Shackelford County since March 2020. However, currently **7** cases are listed as active on the DSHS list. Therefore, 180 of the 187 cases on the list have reached the end of their isolation requirements. DSHS has indicated they are overwhelmed with reported cases and are far behind in their case reporting.

In real time, however, there are as many as **32 or more active cases** in isolation here in the County, based on positive test reports from the Shackelford County Health Clinic and ResourceCare Community Health Center.

At the current time, Shackelford County continues to qualify for an exemption from the closings, reduction in occupancy, and reduction in serving capacity mandated by the Governor's Executive Order GA-32, due to a minimal number of new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 days. The threshold for the exemption under GA-32 is a **30 or less increase** of confirmed COVID-19 cases **on the DSHS list** during the previous **14-day period** on the DSHS list. However, when the numbers I am seeing regarding positive test results are reported to DSHS, Shackelford County may fail to qualify for the exemption. Please stay cautious, the numbers are rising.

The Albany News reported on 12/17/20 the first COVID-19 related fatality for Shackelford County. The death was first reported on the DSHS website on 12/21/20. Hospital capacity continues to be above 15% in the local Trauma Service Area D, of which Shackelford County is a member.

The number of hospitalizations has dramatically increased in the last several weeks, so please exercise extra vigilance to remain socially distanced and avoid exposure. Please do your part.

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.

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