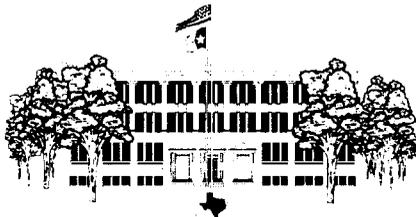


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COUNTY OF TAYLOR
Abilene, Texas

Downing A. Bolls, Jr.
County Judge

MEDIA RELEASE – November 2, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19
16 PERCENT HOSPITALIZATION RATE

The following advisory is being issued by Taylor County Judge Downing Bolls regarding COVID-19:

To the citizens of Taylor County,

Our county, and many others, continue to work toward containing and responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. On Sunday, November 1st, 2020, we reached a new milestone in the spread of this virus through our community.

According to the latest COVID-19 hospitalization numbers from the Texas Department of State Health and Human Services, Trauma Service Area “D”, which includes Abilene and Taylor County, now stands at 16%.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s Executive Order GA-32 stipulates that a Trauma Service Area with a hospitalization rate based on COVID-19 is an “area with high hospitalizations” which is defined as: “Any Trauma Service Area that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15% or less.”

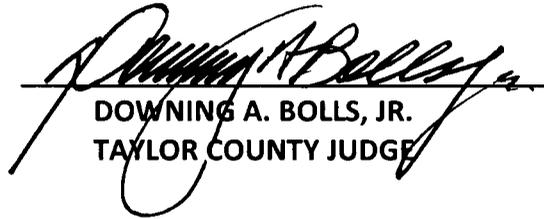
Abilene and Taylor County’s 16% COVID-19 hospitalization rate moves us closer to restriction. As defined by the Governor and the Texas Department of State Health and Human Services, if that hospitalization rate stays higher than 15% for the next six days (which would be seven consecutive days at higher than 15 percent), some businesses would be further impacted, including specifically:

- Bars or similar establishments that hold a permit from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and are not restaurants as defined as “restaurants that have less than 51 percent of their gross receipts from the sale of alcoholic beverages, and whose customers eat or drink only while seated”; and,
- Any business that would otherwise be operating at a 75 percent occupancy or operating limit may operate at only 50 percent.”

As the Governor states in GA-32, “ ... every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) should use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the minimum standard health protocols recommended by DSHS”, which includes social-distancing of six-feet or more, hand-washing and sanitizing, and the wearing of face coverings that cover the nose and mouth when in public.

Personal responsibility is of paramount importance in attempting to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

DATE: November 2, 2020


DOWNING A. BOLLES, JR.
TAYLOR COUNTY JUDGE