

Thomas D. Neely



Hudspeth County Judge

## **PRESS RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: IMPACT OF COVID-19**

Due to the increasing rates of COVID-19 cases in our community, we are encouraging all residents to shelter in place as much as possible and to avoid all non-essential travel.

As of 12/15/2020 there have been a reported total of 309 positive cases in Hudspeth County of which 75 are active cases and these figures are increasing by the day. We have recognized that 35 of these are in Horizon City and we have manually removed these from county tracking. This information can be accessed from the DSHS website. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/public-health.aspx>

We would like to reiterate the impact that the recent surge in Corona Virus cases has had on the Texas Department of Health Region 9/10 of El Paso. We are only able to report cases as they are reported to us.

We are reporting the latest numbers of Corona Virus cases in our community. The Texas Department of Health Region 9/10 of El Paso sent a Public service Answering Points (PSAP) report on, which reports 41 new active cases, with 19 in Fort Hancock, 19 in Sierra Blanca and 3 in Dell City/Salt Flat, and 3 confirmed county resident fatalities and 3 suspected with final results pending.

To apply for possible medical care assistance under the Hudspeth County's Indigent Healthcare Program or assistance with food you may call (915) 369-2321.

We are currently operating under Governor Abbot's Executive Order GA-32, as a result, all restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries in all counties in Trauma Service J are required to return to maximum 50% percent occupancy levels. (A copy of the order can be accessed on the county website at: <http://www.co.hudspeth.tx.us/>)

WITH CORONAVIRUS ON THE RISE, BIG GATHERINGS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. STATE CORONAVIRUS RULES LIMIT OUTDOOR GATHERINGS TO 100 PEOPLE AND MANDATE MASKS WHERE IT IS HARD TO MAINTAIN DISTANCE FROM OTHERS. THIS REITERATES THE NEED FOR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. YOU MUST PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS AVOID LARGE GATHERINGS, WEAR A MASK AND STAY AT LEAST 6 FEET APART FROM OTHER PEOPLE AND FREQUENTLY WASH YOUR HANDS.

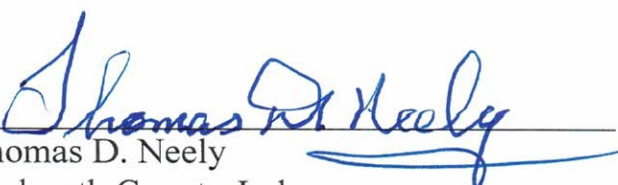
PLEASE TAKE ALL QUARANTINE MEASURES SERIOUSLY. IF YOU TEST POSITIVE OR YOU RESIDE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE, YOU MUST QUARANTINE IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU RESIDE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS ISOLATED IN YOUR HOME YOU MUST QUARANTINE. FAILURE TO DO SO CONSIDERED CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, CLASS A MISDEMEANOR TO WIT: DEADLY CONDUCT - TEXAS PENAL CODE 22.05 (a)(e)

Deadly Conduct is a crime defined in the Texas Penal Code under Chapter 22.05. This crime is committed when one recklessly engages in conduct that places another person in imminent danger of serious bodily injury.

PLEASE TAKE THIS VIRUS SERIOUSLY, PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS, WEAR A MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS AND KEEP 6FT DISTANCE.

**And in the words of Tiny Tim, the one made famous in the Charles Dickens play "A Christmas Carol".**

**May God Bless us All - Each and Every One.**

  
Thomas D. Neely  
Hudspeth County Judge