

**Press Release from County Judge, Scott Kniffen – May 7, 2020 5:00 pm**

On May 7th, Callahan County was advised by the Texas Department of State Health Services that we have had a total of eleven confirmed cases of COVID-19. Five of these have been released from observation leaving us with six individuals still under treatment and/or observation. This increase may be due to the reclassification of a number of cases that had previously been allocated to Taylor County.

All of these cases were travel related. Of the six remaining individuals, four are between the ages of 50 and 64 and two are 65 or older. On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 46 persons were tested at a mobile testing site in Cross Plains. All of these individuals were negative.

We have been receiving information about confirmed cases from individuals that we were not able to confirm with the Department of State Health Services. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we sent documentation to the state attesting that we had five or fewer cases in the county. That was based on the information we had from DSHS. There are several criteria that will move us from the 50% capacity to 25% capacity. Among those criteria is a certain number of cases per 1000 residents. We are not close to that number yet so we will await guidance from the state on whether we will reduce occupancy of businesses from 50% capacity to 25% capacity.

However, based on this increase in confirmed cases and the fact that we can be unexpectedly exposed, we should still follow the guidelines that have, for many of us, become second nature. You should still avoid crowds. Masks, although not required, are still a good idea. You should continue to maintain the social distancing, hand washing, and sanitation guidelines recommended by the CDC and the Texas DSHS. These are the things that have helped us stay safe and these are the things that will keep us safe.

There will be a mobile testing site in Clyde on May 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be open to anyone who wants to be tested. Information can be found on the county web site at [www.co.callahan.tx.us](http://www.co.callahan.tx.us).

If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to call.