

Press Release – 12/08/2020

The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported an additional fatality from COVID-19 bringing our county total to ten deaths. They reported that, as of December 7th, Callahan County has had a total of 256 confirmed cases. On November 19th, that total was 189 and on November 2nd, our total case count was 137. As of the 7th, we have 17 active cases. On the 4th, we had 26 active cases.

As of December 7th, according to the DSHS web site, our 14-day new case total was at 53. On November 19th, it was 42. Our new case total has not been under 30 since November 2nd.

Today, DSHS reported that the percentage of hospital beds in the Abilene Trauma Service area utilized by COVID-19 patients has exceeded 15% for seven days in a row. This means that bars that opened in October under GA-32 will need to close unless they meet the requirements set out by TABC for restaurants. Many other businesses, including dine-in restaurants, will need to reduce their capacity from 75% to 50%. Information specific to the impact this will have on businesses may be obtained at <https://www.tabc.texas.gov/coronavirus>.

There is a mechanism by which counties can opt out of the 50% regulation and stay at 75% but the 14-day new case total has to be below 30 and, as mentioned above, we have not been below 30 since November 2nd so we will not be permitted to opt out.

Please remember to wear your masks, particularly when inside and when you are not able to maintain at least six feet distance from others. Continue to use good disinfectant practices and use hand sanitizer. Utilize the curbside, delivery, or drive-through options when possible.

As always, please remember all these victims and their families in your prayers.