Press Release - 10/18/2021

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has reported that, as of October 8, 2021, 53 Callahan County residents have died from COVID-19. As of October 18th, DSHS reported 20 active and probable cases in the county with 23 new confirmed cases in the last 14 days, both decreases from last week. DSHS reported a total of 853 confirmed and 903 probable cases in Callahan County since they started tracking data.

Hospitalization information available from the DSHS disclosed that the percentage of hospital beds allocated to COVID-19 patients in the Abilene Trauma Service Area is 14.77% as of October 17<sup>th</sup>, also a decrease from last week. More comprehensive information on these statistics can be found at <a href="https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/AdditionalData.aspx">https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/AdditionalData.aspx</a>.

DSHS reports that 80.03% of the residents of Texas over 65 have received both doses of the vaccine. Of those 12 and older, 63.25% have been fully vaccinated. In Callahan County, 61.87% of our residents over 65 have received both doses of the vaccine and 38.99% of those over 12 have been fully vaccinated.

Vaccines are available from some providers in the county but, if you are home-bound, arrangements can be made to provide the vaccine at your home. Please call the courthouse at 325-854-5805 if you would like to have this service.

Please continue to be diligent in your efforts to prevent infections using good sanitation practices and following recommended protocols. Although masks are not required, some businesses may still require them.