

Press Release – 03/01/2021

Data from the Texas Department of State Health Services disclosed the following Callahan County information, effective February 28, 2021:

Fatalities from COVID-19 - 38

Confirmed cases - 587

Probable cases - 555

Active cases (confirmed and probable) - 8

14-day new case total - 6

As of February 27<sup>th</sup>, DSHS reported that the percentage of hospital beds in the Abilene Trauma Service Area (TSA) utilized by COVID-19 patients is 3.39%. This percentage has been under 15% for 32 days. Since this number has remained below 15% and our 14-day new case total is under 30 we were able to reopen local bars and increase capacity in restaurants and other affected businesses to 75%.

Information on getting on vaccinations, registration for vaccinations, and transportation to vaccination sites has been printed in previous press releases. The only change is the new scheduling software that the Abilene/Taylor County Health Department have developed to schedule vaccinations. This software will permit you to schedule your appointment at a specific time and date. The web address is [www.abilenetx.gov/vaccineschedule](http://www.abilenetx.gov/vaccineschedule). As of 11:40 AM on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the site was not operational but they plan to have it active by the end of the day. If you have questions, please call and we'll try to get answers for you.

While the percentage of beds used by COVID-19 patients in our TSA, our active cases, and our 14-day new case total remain low, we must continue to be diligent in wearing 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.