



HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE

Wayne McDaniel

Thursday, March 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge Wayne McDaniel

(409) 246-5120

Dear citizens of Hardin County. Your area County Judges, Mayors, Emergency Managers and Public Health Officials feel that the unprecedented global pandemic known as COVID-19 requires an unprecedented response.

Therefore, all of these Officials from Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton and Orange Counties have joined together to pool our resources and collaborate in a cooperative effort, taking advantage of the longstanding region-wide excellent relationships that we are fortunate to have throughout Southeast Texas.

We have established one phone number to call for screening. It begins operation at 8:00AM on Friday, March 20, 2020 and will be open 8AM – 5PM seven (7) days a week. We are prepared to extend the hours as it becomes necessary. If you feel you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are experiencing fever, cough and shortness of breath, please **DO NOT** report to any emergency room or physician's office – Call the local call center that we have setup for initial screening and triage. **That number is: (409) 550-2536** *If you are in respiratory distress, then call 9-1-1.

Several area school nurses from across the region have agreed to volunteer to work with Public Health Officials in manning the call center. They will take your call, screen/triage you over the phone and give you further instructions if you meet the criteria for being tested for COVID-19 at a "mobile" testing site in one of the 5 counties where a sample will be collected and sent to a lab for testing. You can only report to one of these sites with an assigned ID Number and proper identification at the time you are scheduled to be there.

Lastly, in conjunction with Governor Abbott's Executive Order, I have issued an Executive Order which supersedes the Emergency Order which became effective on March 17, 2020. This new order closely mirrors the Governor's with some additional provisions that meet the conditions of our community. My new Order becomes effective at 11:59PM on Friday, March 20, 2020.

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