



Wood County Judge Lucy Hebron
April 20, 2020 Press Release
(2:00 p.m.)

COVID-19 Update

On April 17, 2020, Governor Abbott issued three Executive Orders (GA-15, GA-16, and GA-17) to begin the process of reopening the State of Texas, while revising hospital capacity and certain social distancing guidelines. The three Executive Orders cover three parts: select activities and services that pose minimal or no threat to the spread of the virus will be allowed to reopen on a limited basis, using a "Retail to Go" model; certain restrictions on surgeries have been loosened; and schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. According to GA-17, a special "Strike Force" was created "to advise the governor on safely and strategically restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the Long Star State--work, school, entertainment, and culture.

In Wood County, certain non-essential businesses have been allowed to operate throughout the pandemic, beginning April 1, 2020 [see Amended Order of Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency for Wood County, Texas – Stay Home Stay Safe Order (“Amended Order”)] under the "locked business" exception. The Governor's Executive Orders do not expand the local authority to operate businesses, but basically allow for the local option Wood County businesses already had. Thus, businesses should only operate their businesses if they conform to the Governor's Executive Order and the local Amended Order. For any conflicts, the Governor's Executive Order controls. For questions, please email covidinfo@mywoodcounty.com.

Read the full Executive Orders here:

April 17, 2020 Governor Abbott Executive Order GA-15
https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-15_hospital_capacity_COVID-19_TRANS_04-17-2020.pdf

April 17, 2020 Governor Abbott Executive Order GA-16
https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-16_Opening_Texas_COVID-19_FINAL_04-17-2020.pdf

April 17, 2020 Governor Abbott Executive Order GA-17

https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-17_Open_Texas_Strike_Force_COVID-19_IMAGE_04-17-2020.pdf

As of April 20, 2020, there are six (6) positive cases in Wood County. All are self-isolating at home. There are no confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Wood County.

If you have any questions about screening or guidance, call your physician, UT Health in Quitman, or Christus in Winnsboro. These are the two hospitals located in Wood County. You can also call 211, option “6” for assistance. If you are short of breath or have trouble breathing, **please call 911.**

Please continue to practice social distancing, wearing of face masks in public, and hand washing to slow the spread. Stay informed with the facts by following:

- 1) CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>);
- 2) DSHS website (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>); and
- 3) NetHealth website (<https://www.mynethealth.org/>).