**MEDIA RELEASE**

**JUNE 23, 2020**

COVID-19 UPDATE

To date, Lampasas County has had 22 total cases of COVID-19. Of those, 12 have recovered and 10 are still considered active. Two are currently hospitalized. Lampasas County residents need to be mindful that COVID-19 is still here and precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of the virus. We are still months away from a vaccine and must understand that until we have a vaccine, the virus will continue to spread. Individuals who contract the virus can become ill and for those most susceptible, serious illness could occur and those most vulnerable could even die.

 I encourage you to read the attached letter from Dr. Georgia Hay, the Lampasas County Local Health Authority. As she states, individuals can reduce the chance on getting COVID-19 by social distancing, washing hands frequently and wearing a protective face cover when in public places. Individuals who are at the greatest risk of complications and/or even death are those over the age of 60 with underlying health conditions. These individuals should take extra precautions and avoid public gatherings totally. We should not compare COVID-19 with the flu. This is different, it is more contagious and the effect can be significantly more serious.

Here lately, I have been asked about the upcoming Spring Ho Festival and other large public events scheduled. Is it safe or not? I cannot answer that question for you. You must make that decision individually. By this time, every resident in Lampasas County, the State of Texas and even in the United States is fully aware COVID-19. We all know and understand the dangers and risks. As I have stated, as well as Dr. Hay, individuals will have to decide if they want to increase their exposure to the possibility of contacting COVID-19 at large public events and if so, what precautions do they want to take.

One of the more tracked data indicators to the severity of cases in Lampasas County and the State, is hospitalization of COVID-19 patients. At this time, we have ample beds available at hospitals. If and when available beds become a concern, additional orders may be issued to address this. Hopefully this will not happen. In closing, I encourage Lampasas County citizens to be vigilant and continue following the guidelines by the CDC.

Stay safe,

Randy Hoyer, Lampasas County Judge