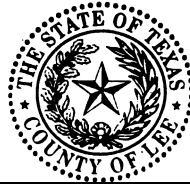


Paul E Fischer

County Judge
Lee County



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Jan 15, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Lee County has been notified that Trauma Service Area O (TSA O) has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity within TSA O exceeds 15%. Hitting that percentage meets the definition of a "high hospitalization" area, which then prohibits elective surgeries, pushes retail establishments and restaurants back to 50% occupancy, and closes bars, per Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 32.

TSA O includes the following counties:

- Bastrop
- Blanco
- Burnet
- Caldwell
- Fayette
- Hays
- Lee
- Llano
- San Saba
- Travis
- Williamson

However, GA-32 allows counties in "high hospitalization" areas to continue to allow elective surgeries, retail and restaurants to remain at 75% occupancy, and bars to remain open **if** the county has fewer than 30 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported over the last 14 days, and the county judge submits an attestation to DSHS. Lee County has such an attestation on file with DSHS. The attestation continues to allow the higher occupancy until Lee County receives notice from DSHS that Lee County's COVID-19 cases exceed the 14-day threshold.

At this time, the data provided to Lee County by DSHS indicates that COVID-19 cases in Lee County may exceed the mandated number of 30 confirmed cases in a 14 day period. As a result, at such time that the Lee County judge receives notice from DSHS that Lee County's DSHS confirmed case count exceeds 30, GA 32 will automatically require Lee County's retail and restaurant establishments to reduce to 50% maximum occupancy and closes "bars". A copy of GA 32 can be found on the Lee County website.

County officials continue to work with local providers and the state to get more COVID-19 vaccine. All of the local pharmacies and several medical providers have been approved to receive the vaccine, but due to supply shortages and decisions by DSHS, vaccine may not be always available.

To help keep our number of cases from increasing, Lee County urges everyone to continue practicing methods for preventing the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are unavailable.
- Wear a cloth face covering in public and during large gatherings.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Stay six feet apart from others.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

The Honorable Paul E Fischer
Lee County Judge