

Washington County, Texas Joint Information Center (JIC) Video Update 6-5-2020

Video location: <https://youtu.be/g3mHzN4cMml>

Dr. William Robert Loesch, MD: So, it's been about 2 weeks since we've had any updates, and one of the biggest questions we've had is, "why no more updates"? Well, sometimes no news is good news. I think things are finally starting to turn [in] our favor. Case counts in the county are actually starting to come down. The best news I've had in weeks: yesterday our number of cases of recovered patients actually surpassed our number of active cases. So, we're actually turning the corner. In the State of Texas, IHME [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation] comes out every few weeks with updated counts. It looks like we're getting real close to the peak in deaths. In fact, it looks like death counts are starting to go down finally in Texas. We thought we might just have a protracted long curve. The number of deaths projected in Texas has come down, so every metric looks like it's improving. That being said, it's not over. The virus is still out there. We've had at least a couple cases this week. We had a few cases last week. The risk is not zero. Hopefully, if the trends continue the way they are, this should be calming down to where things are feeling a lot more like normal within the next month or 2. So, my only plea right now is: we can start going back to work. We can start doing the things we want to do. Just stay safe. You know, wash your hands. Stay out of public if you don't have to be in public. And try to wear masks. I know there's a lot of folks that are just very resistant to wearing masks. But, I think if everybody were to wear these masks for one more month, I think this virus is gone and beat. Otherwise, the ability to test in the county has gotten a lot stronger. I can think back to when we first did these talks. Where it really wasn't, that we could do with any regularity. Now testing can be done pretty much on demand for acute infection. We've got the ability to test the nursing homes. We've actually had cases in the nursing home since we last talked. But, because we were able to test everybody very rapidly, we never had any major outbreaks in the nursing home. So, our big nursing home outbreak is on the mend. The nursing home finally looking like it's back to normal. A very big thank you to all the staff in that facility. They've worked extra hours. Aubrey Eikenhorst, our nurse practitioner, has worked her tail off keeping everybody safe in there. Dr. Leal has done a great job in keeping everybody safe. I think we're getting back to some semblance of normal. Wear your masks. Wash your hands. Be safe. But, no news for the future right now, may be good news. I guarantee, if something comes up that's important, we're going to be back on doing these videos. We will put press releases out. Just stay safe folks."

Judge John Durrenberger: "Good morning Washington County. This is Judge John Durrenberger. As we move into the fourth month, yes the fourth month, for tracking COVID-19 things are looking up. We're seeing Washington County businesses reopen and life beginning to regain some normalcy. Thank you for your months of diligence in helping slow the spread of this virus. As of Wednesday June 2nd, Washington County has had a total of 207 cases of COVID-19, but only 67 of these cases are from non-congregate care facilities. 67 cases out of a population of 35,000 is not too bad. Washington County residents are to be commended for it adhering to the guidelines that help slow the spread of this virus. Just 2 weeks ago we were at 117 active cases. But, today we are at only 97 active cases. We want to focus on the number of recoveries, which is increasing and encouraging. The total number of active

cases are decreasing, even as things are opening back up. This week, the State of Texas had a decline in active cases also. This is very hopeful for us. Washington County will continue to follow Governor Abbott's guidelines for re-opening businesses. As we move forward, let's continue to remain vigilant, by continuing to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We can do that by following CDC recommendations currently in place such as good hygiene and social distancing. Again, I would like to thank the citizens of Washington County for your adherence to these guidelines. Together, together, we can and we will get through this pandemic. Thank you and may God bless you."

Mayor Milton Y. Tate, Jr.: "This is Milton Tate, Mayor of the City of Brenham. I'd like to bring you up to date on some of the activities that the City is planning, as well as some of the facilities that the City will be opening. Our library is open for computer internet usage. Books may be reserved for curbside pickup. Also, download the Libby app on your phone to access even more books, audio books, children's materials, and other library resources. The Blue Bell Aquatic Center is open this Friday June 5th. There will be modified operating hours and capacity will be limited to 25%. The City's new splash pad is nearing completion, but cannot be opened at this time. We will open it as soon as possible. Little League and other organized youth sports have begun practicing as of May 31st and games can begin on June 15th. The City is getting the fields ready for play. Our restaurants and local businesses are slowly opening. Please eat and shop locally in support of businesses that support our community, especially our youth organizations. Movies in the Park have been rescheduled for July. Summer reading and recreation is an engaging program that encourages all ages to read. It promotes physical activity and allows families to discover new things by participating in challenges and activities. This year's slogan is Imagine Your Story and the program runs from June 1 to July 31st. Contact the library for more information. Hot Nights Cool Tunes is scheduled for July in downtown Brenham. More details will be coming soon. Stay tuned. We hope you will participate in the activities as well as use the facilities that are being re-opened. Thank you."

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