

Virus case numbers continue to decrease in Texas

By Melinda McCutchen
Publisher

It's been not quite six months, but it feels like a really long time since Coke County's exhibitors, along with everyone else, were sent home during the middle of the Houston Livestock Show last March. That is the moment in time when many Texans first began to realize Covid-19 would affect all of our lives. Most Texans had no idea it would last so long.

Parents of school age children were left scrambling to adjust when spring break extended through summer. Essential workers kept working while trying to be safe and not catch the virus, nor take it home to their families. Small business owners fought to continue paying employees and wondered how long they could remain temporarily closed before temporary changed to permanent. Others had to depend upon unemployment funds and stimulus funds.

The main thread that seemed to be woven throughout this period of time since last March was fear. With many, this fear changed to anger. This anger was aimed at numerous targets: at the governor who through executive orders shut Texas down; at the doctors and health organizations who seemed to be changing their advice, if not daily, at least weekly; at those

who required them to wear a mask; at those who refused to wear a mask; at those who were terrified by this virus; and at those who called this a "plandemic". The two things most citizens had in common were fear and anger. History will decide which fears and whose anger were legitimate.

We, at *The Observer/Enterprise*, have kept our readers updated with the latest Texas data on a daily basis through our website ObserverEnterprise.com. Two Texas maps showing all 254 counties have been updated each day with new active case totals for each county and new overall totals for each county. With the weakening of Covid-19 in Texas, these updates ended on August 31, 2020. We are continuing to keep a detailed Texas statistics table updated daily at the website. As of September 1, we will also be producing and updating an area map of Coke County and the counties closest to Coke County. This map will contain overall totals, active case totals, fatalities and recoveries for the following counties - Coke, Runnels, Taylor, Nolan, Mitchell, Sterling, Irion, Tom Green and Concho.

The Texas Covid-19 data for August is what led us to this decision. Active cases have fallen from over 140,000 at the beginning of the month to just

<u>Mitchell County</u>		<u>Nolan County</u>		<u>Taylor County</u>	
Overall	73	Overall	150	Overall	1,317
Active	12	Active	8	Active	156
Fatal	1	Fatal	4	Fatal	34
Recovered	60	Recovered	138	Recovered	1,127

<u>Sterling County</u>		<u>Coke County</u>		<u>Runnels County</u>	
Overall	3	Overall	49	Overall	191
Active	1	Active	7	Active	12
Fatal	0	Fatal	3	Fatal	3
Recovered	1	Recovered	39	Recovered	176

<u>Tom Green County</u>		<u>Concho County</u>	
Overall	10	Overall	55
Active	1	Active	20
Fatal	0	Fatal	1
Recovered	9	Recovered	32

over 92,000 at the end of the month. Daily new cases have fallen from almost 10,000 per day on August 1 to less than 2,500 on August 31. Hospitalizations have been halved from almost 9,000 on August 1 to just over 4,200 on August 31. New daily fatalities went from 200 to 300+ during the first half of August to 26 on August 31. On August 31, the percentage of Texans who died with Covid-19 out of all Texans

who contracted the virus stood at 2.04%. This percentage drops dramatically when compared to all of Texas' 29,000,000 residents. The fatality rate drops from 2.04% to four tenths of 1 percent (.04%). The active case rate has fallen to 15.16% of all those diagnosed with the virus during the last few months. When compared to all Texans, this percentage falls to 3.2%. Just 3.2% of all Texas residents

actively are battling this virus. The best percentage is the recovery percentage. This shows that 82.79% of all Texans who contracted the virus have recovered.

Hopefully, these trends will continue and eventually we won't even have to have a Covid-19 tab at ObserverEnterprise.com. However until then, we will strive to keep the residents of Coke County aware of the latest Covid-19 data.

WCCHD board meeting minutes told

By Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session in the old jail annex building, August 25, 2020. The July meeting was canceled due to the COVID situation. The board met for a budget workshop on August 17 and there will be a budget hearing September 2, at 9:30 am at the old jail annex building. The board would like to again express sincere appreciation to the Historical Committee for the use of their facilities for our meetings during this time.

President Beverly Burdett called the regular meeting to order at 9:35 am, and declared a quorum was present. Robert Brock gave the invocation. Board members present were Robert Brock, Pat Stephens, Noel Tinkler, and Judie Andrews. Houston McGuire - RLCC Administrator, Melissa Fletcher - HR, Chris Martin - Consultant, and Roger Alexander - WCCHD Administrator, were also present at the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and the absentee from that meeting was excused.

The administrator gave his report. There are 47 residents in the Care Center as of the meeting date. The facility is

currently in need of CNA's. Hospitality Aids have been hired to assist during the COVID pandemic.

An update was given on the QIPP program and all is going well.

Under building maintenance, Houston reported on the aesthetic improvements to the facility. The inside work is still on hold due to the facility lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. Work has resumed on the gazebo in the back yard

of the facility. The Board discussed the RO system replacement, and Houston is still gathering information as to whether it would be more cost effective to purchase or lease.

TeleHealth Services are going great and are extremely beneficial to the residents at the facility.

Accounts receivable were discussed in depth.

The financial statements were discussed and accepted.

The board voted to pay a fee to the Coke County Historical Society for the use of the annex building for meetings.



Russell Davis
Agent

611 Austin Street
PO Box 1079
Robert Lee, Texas 76945
(325) 453-4505 office
(325) 453-4524 fax
(325) 650-1904 mobile
TXFB-INS.COM

DARYL'S BODY SHOP

300 STATE HWY 229
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945

DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980

The board also voted for a bonus to be given to the administration and employees, in appreciation for services above and beyond, during the

pandemic. This has been a very trying time, and everyone has done an excellent job maintaining the integrity of the facility.

(Continued on page 7)

HOLIDAY

CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of this bank will be closed

Monday, September 7th

In Observance Of

Labor Day



Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC

453-2545 Robert Lee, Texas