

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We have more vaccine coming into the county for COVID-19. We will be scheduling another drive-through at the PSFA Grounds on the 19. Watch our emergency management page for announcements for sign up. We are going to see significantly more vaccine being available very soon. It is coming.

The Governor announced that effective today, March 10, he is lifting all COVID restrictions in Texas. If the local area goes above 15% hospital capacity the County Judge may reimpose restrictions with certain limitations according to the Governor's EOGA34. This means all bars, restaurants and movie theaters go to 100% occupancy with no limitations on hours beginning on March 10. The Governor did recommend, and I agree, that people should voluntarily wear masks and socially distance. I recommend this for 30 to 60 more days. I think we need this time to immunize more people in this county. The Governor also did point out that businesses were still legal to require masks and social distancing. I believe in 30 to 60 more days we will begin to see the way out of this COVID mess. Vaccination is the key, so, I implore all the citizens of Atascosa County to use caution, watch the numbers and get vaccinated as soon as possible. We especially need to be observant of the numbers for 30 days after Spring Break.

The following was put out by Governor Abbott's office:

"A statewide rental assistance and utility assistance program will begin at 8 a.m. on Feb. 15, 2021. You can access texasrentrelief.com and/or 1-833-989- 7368. Renters and landlords will be directed to set up an account and proceed from there. We understand this will pay rent and utilities that are past due and currently due bills."

For claims to FEMA for damages from the freeze, the information is "Register for Help – Online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. Use the FEMA mobile app, available at <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>. Call 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET, 7 days a week at 1-800-621- 3362 (also for 711 & VRS)."

Don't forget, if you need to apply for the new business assistance money from the new Congressional COVID funds go to <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-2483-ppp-first-draw-borrower-application-form>.

Be safe and hang on. Vaccination will set you free.

Thanks for listening.