

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

We have had difficulty getting autopsies done for about six months. An autopsy is ordered by the JP in a death call if, in the judgment of the JP, the conditions are suspicious and criminal prosecution may follow. Bexar County Medical Examiner (ME) has been so busy with COVID deaths that they put a hold on autopsies of surrounding counties. We have opened two other sources (Lockhart and Corpus) we can send to help with the need. We usually have a dozen or more autopsies a year. Another problem we have is transport for the autopsies to the Medical Examiner. All our nearby counties have the same problems. In the spirit of working together, Atascosa has started a transport service (Atascosa County Medical Examiner Transport – ACMET) and is making that service available to all nearby counties. We are staffing this project at present with part-time personnel. We have a coordinator established and two assistants. We need more on-call personnel just so the pool is big enough to consider conflicts and make sure two people are available for all calls. If you know anyone interested in working with this program and making some extra pay, please have them contact my office at 830-769-3093.

I have been writing about the need for everyone to get their COVID-19 shots. This is getting more critical with the new “variant” that is exploding across the nation. Our vaccination rate is getting better. The percentage of our citizens who are fully vaccinated between 12 and 65 is up to 40.46% today. The percentage for those over 65 that are fully vaccinated is 62.93%. It is so critical that all parents and grandparents get their children vaccinated before school starts. This new COVID-19 “variant” is devastating and will kill without discrimination. According to the CDC, all the people in the last month who died were NOT VACCINATED. No one died or became seriously ill who had been vaccinated.

If you are not vaccinated, you are playing Russian roulette with this disease. Do you want to risk it? We are moving past the last year of pain from this pandemic. Do you want to give that up? If you are not vaccinated, you are depending on those who have taken the shots. These folks are the ones who deserve the credit for our society opening again. The credit for Texas opening back up belongs to those who have been vaccinated. Step up and be an example to your families and friends by getting the shots. Are you putting your families at risk? Do not be that person. Get your and your family’s shots and help put this pandemic in the rear-view mirror. It is the right thing to do. It is a myth to believe that if you are young, you are exempt. Many young people have died, or are very ill, or are having extended problems from having it. I ask again in closing, if you are not vaccinated, please get the shots!

Thank you. I pray that God will bless Atascosa County and all its citizens.