



STATE OF THE COUNTY

MEDIA BLITZ:

Brewster County Judge & Office of Emergency Management Updates COVID-19 Response Information

12/7/20 Update

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to affect our region, the office of the Brewster County Judge and Brewster County Department of Emergency Management recognize these concerns. Throughout these challenging times, the County's role has been to maintain public health and safety, while ensuring the community is in compliance with state and county regulations.

Effective March 25, 2020 Brewster County Judge Eleazar R. Cano signed the Local State of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency in response to Governor Abbott's State of Disaster Declaration issued March 13, 2020.

Brewster County has since remained in compliance in order to help minimize the spread. Many people who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the virus to others without knowing it. It has been proven that those who have been advised or require their citizens to wear face coverings in public have been shown to be more successful in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. When compliance is high, spreading of the virus slows.

This is an up-to-date timeline providing details and key events during the pandemic, focusing on the impact to our local community. The numbers projected here are driving decisions, both at a local level, as well as at the state level. Brewster County officials are mindful of the fact that local orders cannot supersede the Governor's orders.

- 5/12/20 - Brewster County Judge Eleazar R. Cano filed for the Attestation for Rural Counties with five or fewer laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 from DSHS permitting local businesses to operate at 75% capacity which at the time our county was well within the threshold.
- 7/3/20 - The Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-29 relating to the use of face-coverings in public areas during the COVID-19 disaster
- 9/25/20 - Brewster County LHA submits resignation letter.
- 10/7/20 - Texas State Governor Abbott announced the re-opening of bars effective October 14, 2020
- 10/14/20 - Brewster County Judge Eleazar R. Cano filed the TABC Opt-In form allowing local bars to re-open again confirming we were well within the guidelines to proceed with business as we had a case count of 17 active cases and only 1 hospitalization
- 10/29/20 - Shelter in Place Order issued by the El Paso County Judge
- 10/29/20 - Brewster County Judge received correspondence regarding an update and response to El Paso County's Shelter in Place Order – **The Attorney General of Texas issued an opinion letter advising that the County's order is "unlawful and unenforceable" because it conflicts with the Governor's Executive Order GA-32.**

- 10/29/20 - Active cases 19, Hospitalizations 1
- 10/30/20 - Active cases 9, Hospitalizations 1
- 10/31/20 - Holiday - Halloween Festivities
- 10/31/20 - Community setting outbreak had been identified- SRSU
- 11/2/20 - Steady increase of active cases -15, Hospitalizations 4
- 11/4/20 - Steady increase of active cases- 29, Hospitalizations 1
- 11/12/20 - Active cases 47, Hospitalizations 6
- 11/12/20 - Mobile COVID testing provided- 442 tested
- 11/22/20 - Mobile COVID testing provided- 486 tested
- 11/23/20 - Active cases 167, Hospitalizations 6
- 11/23/20 - Notification sent to DSHS of withdrawal from attestation, County no longer qualified under current guidelines.
- 11/23/20 - Notification received from TABC for request of decertification of the Opt-In form. County no longer qualified under current guidelines.
- 12/1/20 - Active cases rise to 415
- 12/7/20 – Active cases 317

To ensure all the community understand what is available and what are the impacts during these challenging times, Brewster County will provide updates to the community as new information becomes available. To the extent this notice conflicts with any previous notices, the most current update shall supersede prior news releases. As we continue to deal with this crisis, it is imperative that we understand we are all in this together.

In an effort to mitigate community spread of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Brewster County will continue to work in partnership with the City of Alpine and other local, state and federal health officials to receive guidance and coordinate our response accordingly. We will continue our work in compliance with Governor Abbott's executive order. For more detailed information regarding state guidelines, please refer to Governor Abbot's Executive Order GA-32 and <https://open.texas.gov/> or by calling (432) 837-2412.