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October 16, 2020

Citizens of Montague County:

This evening I have been in contact with the Regional Medical Director of the Texas Department of Health Services as well as the local physician who serves as the Montague County Health Authority. As of this afternoon, the State of Texas is tracking 35 active COVID 19 cases in Montague County. The Regional Medical Director advised there are likely some additional positive cases that are not yet on this list. Obviously, this increase in active COVID cases from October 14 to today ends our brief mask exemption in this county. The Texas Department of Health Services is conducting investigations in an attempt to ascertain the probable origins of this increase in positive cases. The Director stated this is an alarming increase in positive cases for a county this size. The various state websites regarding COVID 19 give suggestions of ways to slow the spread of this virus. These methods are basic common sense—wash your hands often with soap and water, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, try to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, attempt to practice social distancing (about 2 arm lengths), and stay home when you are sick except to receive medical attention. It is also recommended by the Texas Department of Health that a face covering over nose and mouth be worn when in public.

As I have previously stated, it appears Texas is beginning to relax and reopen our businesses. In order to keep this momentum moving forward, each of us needs to be responsible not only for our own health, but for the health of our family and friends.

It is obvious due to the quickly increasing number of COVID-19 cases in our county, we need to be vigilant in our daily lives with regards to this virus.

My office will remain in daily contact with our state health officials and I will keep all of you updated as we move forward and get past this critical time.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin L. Benton".

Kevin L. Benton  
County Judge  
Montague County, Texas

