Nehls said there were no cases of coronavirus in the county jail he oversaw, but, two months later, at least six of his own employees were infected.

Nehls: “I Have Over 800 Inmates And Staff In The Jail And Not A Single Positive Test.” “Lina Hildago announced a countywide mandate for Harris County residents 10 or older to wear face masks at all times in public or be fined $1,000. Well, not in Ft. Bend County. We will not trample on the individual rights of Texans to provide a false sense of security. I have 826 staff at the Ft. Bend Sheriff’s Office. We interact with the public daily. In 3 months, I’ve had just 2 officers test positive. I have over 800 inmates and staff in the jail and not a single positive test. NOT ONE. No one’s been hospitalized. I encourage people to wear a mask if they have one, I encourage people to wash their hands frequently, I encourage people to do the right thing to help protect our most vulnerable, but this government MANDATE from Harris County is unnecessary, unconstitutio nal, and unAmerican. It’s an unprecedented overreach which looks more like a communist dictatorship than a free Republic. At this point, I see it as nothing more than politics. Governor Abbott announces a trajectory to start reopening Texas and Harris County, which never even utilized its $60 MILLION pop up hospital at NRG, implements a mandate for face masks on 4 million people. The other counties to do it are Dallas, Bexar, and Travis. These are the 3 most liberal counties in the state of Texas. Coincidence? I don’t think so. I believe we’ve seen the worst of this war. And we’re closer to victory than we’ve ever been. Let’s keep doing our part to be conscious of others when we’re out and make sure to hold government accountable, always.” [Facebook, Sheriff Troy E. Nehls, 4/22/20]

An Inmate And Six Staff Contracted COVID-19 In Fort Bend County Jails. “A Fort Bend County jail inmate has contracted COVID-19 and so have six jailers, the Fort Bend County Sheriff’s Department reported.” [Fort Bend Herald, 6/25/20]