



Dr. David "Hoss" Blocker, MD, MPH
Hood County Public Health Authority
Work Cell: 682-200-9352
Fax: 866-271-0102
Email: dblocker@co.hood.tx.us

Hood County COVID-19 Update

April 27, 2020, 3 pm

Hood County has 19 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. Risk for COVID-19 transmission remains "substantial" in Hood County. COVID-19 testing continues at local medical facilities in Hood County, including antibody testing. In coordination with Texas Department of Emergency Management and our county office, a team from the Texas Air National Guard successfully tested 124 Hood County residents this weekend at their drive through location, and we expect results within the next week.

Hood County COVID-19 test results to date

As of 3:00 pm on April 27th, 471 total COVID-19 tests have been reported for Hood County residents, with 20 positive results reported (two on the same person), 310 negative, and 141 pending laboratory confirmation, including the 124 from drive through testing. Two county residents have died from COVID-19 related illness and four have recovered. Another tested positive after dying from other causes, unrelated to COVID-19.

Where did these people contract COVID-19?

Seven people are believed to have contracted the highly contagious virus from travel, five from work contacts in Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, and seven contracted the illness from infected family members or contacts.

Hood County Has Substantial Impact from COVID-19

County and City leaders should continue to follow U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for communities with "substantial" impact or transmission of COVID-19, based upon continued spread in the DFW Metroplex and higher risk of severe COVID-19 related illness in our population.

Documented COVID-19 cases in DFW counties account for over 25% of the positive cases and deaths in the state of Texas, and they continue to experience substantial transmission. Tarrant County Health Department reported over 400 new cases in the last four days, as well as an additional four deaths. Daily numbers of new cases and deaths have not yet shown a decline across the state of Texas, remaining steady or increasing since the end of March, as reported by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Coronavirus website. Across Texas, 75% of COVID-19 related deaths have occurred in individuals age 65 and older. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 25% of Hood County residents are 65 years of age or older, and many more have medical conditions that increase their risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19, influenza, or other related illness. When cases begin to decrease in DFW, risk to Hood County residents will also decrease.

Recommendations to Return to a New "Normal"

Businesses and organizations should continue to follow CDC social distancing recommendations and principles as they consider opening or expanding services over the next few weeks, in accordance with official guidelines. Protect your workers and your customers, and ensure they protect themselves when they are on site.

If you are ill with COVID-19 or other respiratory symptoms, do NOT leave your home except to seek medical care. Call ahead to your doctor's office and wear a mask to reduce risk of spreading your illness to others.

Individuals should continue to assess risk to themselves, their families and close contacts when going to work or engaging in social contact with others. Masks, gloves and other barriers between individuals may offer limited protection from respiratory droplets if used properly and cleaned or changed when soiled. The best strategies include remaining six feet away from others, avoiding unnecessary contact with common surfaces, and frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer.

Hood County and City of Granbury websites have the latest guidance on social distancing and public health emergency measures enacted to protect our local communities.

Texas DSHS website and Texas 2-1-1 remain the best sources of information for Hood County residents regarding COVID-19 testing and self-protection measures. DSHS updates their county-by-county tracking map daily at <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.