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Hood County COVID-19 Update

May 1, 2020, 5 pm

According to Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Hood County has 20 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. At least five remain under home isolation, and the majority have recovered. Following a formal request from Hood County Judge Ronald Massingill, DSHS approved certain businesses in Hood County to reopen at 50% capacity this morning, following Governor Abbot's latest "Open Texas" guidelines, available on the DSHS Coronavirus website.

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>.

Risk for COVID-19 transmission remains "substantial" in Hood County.

In coordination with Texas Department of Emergency Management and Hood County Office of Emergency Management, a team from the Texas Military Department provided "drive through" testing for Hood County residents last weekend, and they will provide another drive through test on Tuesday, May 5th from 10 am to 6 pm. Registration will begin this Sunday, residents can call 512-883-2400 or register at <https://txcovidtest.org/>

Hood County COVID-19 test results to date

As of 5:00 pm on May 1st, Hood County has 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases. A total of 510 COVID-19 PCR swab tests have been reported for Hood County residents, with 23 positive results reported (some are retests), 435 negative, and 52 pending laboratory confirmation. Three have died (two from COVID-19 related illness, one from other causes), five remain under home isolation and the others have recovered. COVID-19 antibody tests are now available in Hood County as well, but those results are not yet available through DSHS.

Drive through COVID-19 PCR swab testing was conducted for 124 residents on April 26th by Texas Military Department. Two tested positive, 98 tested negative, and 24 results are still pending.

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 the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, seven contracted the illness from infected family members or other close contacts, and one is currently unknown.

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.

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" in Hood County

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 "Open Texas" and other 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 hand washing 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.