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## **Hood County COVID-19 Update**

### **May 18, 2020, 6 pm**

According to Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Hood County has a total of 22 documented positive COVID-19 cases. At least one additional case has not yet been confirmed by DSHS and other potential cases are under investigation. At least two remain under home isolation, and one is hospitalized. Risk for COVID-19 transmission remains "substantial" in Hood County and across the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex. All Hood County residents, businesses, and other organizations should review the latest "Open Texas" guidelines, available on the DSHS Coronavirus website, <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx>. Hood County businesses that meet "Open Texas" guidelines are currently allowed to operate at 50% capacity, rather than 25%, according to the DSHS website.

#### **Hood County COVID-19 test results to date**

As of 6:00 pm on May 18th, Hood County has 22 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to DSHS. Others remain under investigation. A total of 967 COVID-19 PCR swab tests have been reported for Hood County residents, with 26 positive results reported (some are retests), 796 negative, and 145 pending laboratory confirmation. Three have died (two from COVID-19 related illness, one from other causes), at least two remain under home isolation, one is hospitalized and at least 15 have recovered. COVID-19 antibody tests are now available in Hood County as well, but those results are not yet available through DSHS.

The Texas Military Department conducted drive through COVID-19 PCR swab testing on 124 residents on April 26th. Two tested positive, 122 tested negative. They conducted drive through testing on another 58 residents on May 5th and May 11th, results are still pending.

#### **Where did these people contract COVID-19?**

Six people are believed to have contracted the highly contagious virus from travel, seven from work contacts in the DFW area, and seven contracted the illness from infected family members or other close contacts. Others are still under investigation.

#### **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.

**"Open Texas" Provides Guidelines to Return to a New Normal in Hood County**

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

Everyone should continue to protect themselves, their families, and coworkers as they return to work and community involvement. The "Open Texas Checklist for all Individuals" has minimum recommended health guidance for everyone.

Businesses and organizations should continue to follow social distancing recommendations and principles as they consider opening or expanding services in accordance with "Open Texas" guidelines. Protect your workers and your customers, and ensure they protect themselves when they are on site.