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Hood County COVID-19 Update

June 1, 2020, 8 pm

Risk for COVID-19 transmission remains "substantial" in Hood County and across the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex, which will continue to impact social gatherings, work and family activities through the next month. According to Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Hood County has a total of 27 documented positive COVID-19 cases. At least two additional cases transmitted locally have not yet been confirmed by DSHS and other potential cases are under investigation. All Hood County residents, businesses, and other organizations should continue to review and follow "Open Texas" guidelines, available on the DSHS Coronavirus website. Most Hood County businesses are allowed to operate at 50% capacity, as long as they follow the guidelines.

Hood County COVID-19 test results to date

As of 8:00 pm on June 1st, Hood County has a total of 27 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to DSHS. A total of 1658 COVID-19 PCR swab tests have been reported for Hood County residents, with 33 positive results reported (some are retests), 1267 negative, and 358 pending laboratory confirmation. Hood County has a 2.6% positive test rate, compared with 5.4% for the state of Texas as of May 31st. Since reporting began in late March, three Hood County residents have died (two from COVID-19 related illness, one from other causes), at least four remain under home isolation, and at least 20 have recovered.

Where did these people contract COVID-19?

Six Hood County residents are believed to have contracted the highly contagious virus from travel, eleven from work contacts, and seven contracted the illness from infected family members or other close contacts. Others now fall under "community transmission," without a clear source.

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. Although we have flattened the transmission curve, hundreds of new cases and numerous deaths continue to be reported every day across DFW and Texas, including outbreaks in nursing facilities and prisons.

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

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.

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

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.