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Hood County COVID-19 Interim Update - 7-23-2020, 1 PM

341 total COVID-19 cases have been detected in Hood County residents since mid-March (53 new cases since my 7-20 report). We currently have 150 active cases hospitalized or under isolation, and a 9.5% positive test rate.

There are differences between local county reports and DSHS website numbers because of delays in processing local cases to DSHS and their need to ultimately deconflict multiple reporting sources across the state.

137 local COVID-19 PCR nasal swab tests (looking for active COVID-19 infection) are waiting for laboratory results.

341 total cases in Hood County confirmed by positive PCR nasal swab tests with local clinics, hospitals, or DSHS

150 active cases (positive COVID-19 PCR nasal swab test reported within last 10 days)

52 additional cases were self-reported through Texas Health Trace website (I cannot confirm these)

3 current confirmed hospitalizations, all other active cases have been directed to self-isolate at home

5 total deaths (4 COVID-related, one more was COVID-positive at time of death)

186 have recovered, based on DSHS reports or time since testing, per CDC/DSHS protocols

5 additional tested positive for previous COVID infection by IgG antibody tests (considered recovered)

461 positive PCR nasal swab tests reported in Hood County (some repeated, some for residents of other counties)

9.5% positive PCR nasal swab test rate

74 additional cases detected in residents of surrounding counties, reported to DSHS and their county health authorities

Hood County remains at SUBSTANTIAL risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Prevention is Key!

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Social distancing is best - if you need to get close to others, "mask up"

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

COVER coughs and sneezes with a mask or a sleeve

Wash or sanitize hands and surfaces often

Texas Workforce Commission and DSHS Recommendations (current since 5-7-2020):

COVID-19 testing is NOT required for most for people to return to work or regular activities if they follow the guidelines below.

"DSHS recommends that mildly ill individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, like fever or cough, stay at home and take care of themselves there. Many mildly ill people will not need to go to their healthcare provider for testing or treatment. Sick individuals can help prevent the spread of their illness by staying home. For these individuals, DSHS recommends that they stay home until they are fever free for at least 72 hours (measured when they are not taking fever-reducing medicine like Advil™, Tylenol™, or aspirin), their symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared. After they have met these criteria, they can return to work."

Review the Department of State Health Services "Open Texas," Hood County, and City of Granbury websites for the latest Executive Orders, reports and guidance on COVID-19:

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

<https://co.hood.tx.us/772/Infectious-Diseases>

<http://granbury.org/996/COVID-19-Coronavirus>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines for workers in specific industries regulated by OSHA:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/covid-19-faq.html>

UPDATED CDC guidelines for COVID testing and return to work for healthcare workers (7-17-2020):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-healthcare-personnel.html>