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Hood County COVID-19 Interim Update - 8-4-2020, 10 pm

557 total COVID-19 cases have been detected in Hood County residents since mid-March (49 new cases detected locally since my 7-29 report, and another 109 were added from Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), including dozens self-reported through Texas Health Trace). We currently have 82 active cases hospitalized or under isolation, and an 9.3% positive test rate.

Texas Health Trace website has now been in effect for over two months, and DSHS is confirming these self-reports before adding to county numbers across the state. 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.

We now have ten COVID positive deaths reported for Hood County residents, two new deaths of severely ill hospitalized patients reported since last week. 8/10 (80%) were COVID-related (death directly complicated or caused by COVID-19 related illness). 8/10 (80%) were 60 years or older.

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

COVID-19 in Hood County - By the Numbers:

- 557 total cases reported in Hood County residents from all sources
 - 448/557 cases confirmed by positive PCR nasal swab tests with local clinics, hospitals, or DSHS
 - 109/557 cases were added by DSHS, most were self-reported through Texas Health Trace website
- 465 have recovered and were released from isolation, per CDC/DSHS protocols
- 82 active cases remain isolated (positive COVID-19 PCR nasal swab test reported within last 10 days, plus a few who remain symptomatic longer)
- 3 current reported hospitalizations, all other active cases have been directed to self-isolate at home
- 10 total COVID-positive deaths (8 COVID-related, two additional were COVID-positive at time of death)
- 599 positive PCR nasal swab tests reported (some repeated, some positive for residents of other counties)
- 9.3% positive PCR nasal swab test rate
- 86 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.

Even though we still are in the thick of this COVID pandemic, we have the opportunity now to trend in a positive direction.

I believe that it is important to note that 83% of the COVID cases detected in Hood County have now recovered, and our local hospital and clinics have proven up to the task of managing the impact of COVID-19 in our community.

Recent local deaths reflect the massive increase in active cases in the two previous weeks (up to 150 active cases on 7-23), now trending back downward here and in surrounding communities.

As we enter into the fall season and the latter half of 2020, I encourage everyone to continue following the basic prevention measures needed to continue moving businesses, schools and other areas of our community forward.

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

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>

**Texas Workforce Commission and DSHS recommendations for repeat COVID testing (7-23-2020):
COVID-19 testing is NOT required or recommended for most for people to return to work or regular activities following mild COVID-19 illness.**

Criteria include at least ten days since the onset of symptoms consistent with coronavirus illness (or date of positive test if no symptoms), complete RESOLUTION of those symptoms, and more than 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication.

Download the letter and other resources for businesses from DSHS.

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