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Hood County COVID-19 Interim Update - 8-11-2020, 9 AM

592 total COVID-19 cases have been detected in Hood County residents since mid-March (35 new cases detected locally since my 8-4 report). We currently have 23 active cases hospitalized or under isolation (decreased from 82 on 8-4), and an 9.5% 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 eleven COVID positive deaths reported for Hood County residents, one new death reported since last week. 9/11 (82%) were COVID-related (death directly complicated or caused by COVID-19 related illness). 9/11 (82%) were 60 years or older.

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

In close collaboration with school leadership, I have approved reopening plans for Granbury, Tolar and Lipan ISDs; they are all in compliance with Texas Educational Agency Public Health guidance for reopening. We will monitor closely and support as needed for any issues, including classroom, sports, and UIL activities.

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>

COVID-19 in Hood County - By the Numbers:

- 592 total cases reported in Hood County residents from all sources
- 558 have recovered and were released from isolation, per CDC/DSHS protocols
- 23 active cases remain isolated (positive COVID-19 PCR nasal swab test reported within last 10 days, plus a few who remain symptomatic longer)
- 6 current reported hospitalizations, all other active cases have been directed to self-isolate at home
- 11 total COVID-positive deaths (9 COVID-related, two additional were COVID-positive at time of death)
- 636 positive PCR nasal swab tests reported (some repeated, some positive for residents of other counties)
- 9.5% positive PCR nasal swab test rate since March 2020
- 93 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.

North Texas communities across the Metroplex experienced increasing cases last week, while our local cases are declining, so we must continue to safeguard our families, businesses, and community.

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 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>