



Dr. David "Hoss" Blocker, MD, MPH
Hood County Public Health Authority
Work Cell: 682-200-9352
Fax: 866-271-0102
Email: dblocker@co.hood.tx.us

Hood County COVID-19 Interim Update - 8-17-2020, 9 am

709 total COVID-19 cases have been detected in Hood County residents since mid-March (117 new cases reported since my 8-11 report). We currently have 44 active cases hospitalized or under isolation (increased from 23 on 8-11), and an 10.3% positive test rate.

Texas Health Trace website has now been in effect for over two months, and DSHS is confirming these self-reports and 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 14 COVID positive deaths reported for Hood County residents, with 3 new deaths reported since last week, all over the age of 60. 11/14 (79%) of the deaths were COVID-related (death directly complicated or caused by COVID-19 related illness). 12/14 (86%) were 60 years or older.

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

Three of the active cases today are under 20 years old, and are in isolation away from school and work.

I remain in close collaboration with school leadership across the county; they are all in compliance with Texas Educational Agency Public Health guidance for reopening. We will continue to monitor closely and support as needed for any issues, including classroom, sports, and other 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:

- 709 total cases reported in Hood County residents from all sources
- 651 have recovered and were released from isolation, per CDC/DSHS protocols
- 44 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
- 14 total COVID-positive deaths (11 COVID-related, three additional were COVID-positive at time of death)
- 720 positive PCR nasal swab tests reported (some repeated, some positive for residents of other counties)
- 10.3% 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 COVID-19 Confirmed Cases by Age (out of 636 cases as of 8-12)

- 10 are less than 10 years old (2%)
- 55 are 10-19 years old (9%)
 - 65 are under age 20 (11%)
- 117 are 20-29 years old (18%)
- 84 are 30-39 years old (13%)
 - 201 are ages 20-39 (31%)
- 98 are 40-49 years old (15%)
- 94 are 50-59 years old (15%)
 - 192 are ages 40-59 (30%)
- 67 are 60-69 years old (11%)
- 60 are 70-79 years old (9%)
- 36 are 80-89 years old (6%)
- 14 are 90-99 years old (2%)
- 1 is more than 100 years old (<1%)
 - 178 are aged 60 or older (28%)
- 55% have been female, 45% male

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

North Texas communities across the Metroplex experienced increasing cases last week, and our local cases have risen this week as well, 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 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>