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Hood County Health Authority COVID-19 Risk Update - 3-22-2021

I am updating my COVID-19 risk assessment for Hood County to "Moderate Risk of Transmission" effective 3-22-2021.

This does not mean that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, and it does not remove public health recommendations to continue to limit the spread of COVID-19.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS) guidance for limiting the spread of COVID-19 in schools and other public settings, the number of active and new cases reported in Hood County over the past week has decreased to the level of moderate transmission risk.

According to the most current reports from TX DSHS, local clinics and hospitals, Hood County has a total of 55 active COVID-19 cases right now, with a new case transmission rate around 5% (positive tests out of all COVID-19 tests completed in the past 7 days).

Hospitals have reported fewer than five COVID-19 positive Hood County patients each week for the last two weeks.

Local vaccination efforts have now successfully vaccinated over 10,000 Hood County residents against COVID-19, and over 4,500 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since we began tracking these numbers in March 2020. This means that at least 18% of Hood County residents should now have some degree of immunity or protection against the spread of COVID-19.

I encourage our community to continue to follow CDC and TX DSHS guidelines found on their websites, including social distancing, mask use if social distancing is not possible, handwashing and disinfecting surfaces, and immunization against COVID-19 and influenza.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

CDC and state guidelines are being reviewed and updated nearly every day right now.

I will continue to review our local numbers weekly in order to provide you with the best public health guidance for Hood County as you make decisions impacting our community.

CDC "operational strategy" guidelines for schools (updated 3-19-2021):

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html?](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fdaily-life-coping%2Foperatio)

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Most current CDC tracker (data appears to be about 10 days behind):

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

TX DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard (data about 7 days behind):

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/AdditionalData.aspx>