



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Comal County reports one death, 79 COVID-19 cases; Active cases now at 799 State of Texas changes the way seven-day positivity rate is reported

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, December 16, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County reports an additional 79 COVID-19 cases today, bringing the County's total to 5,504. 51 are confirmed cases and 28 are probable cases. The County now has 799 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 48 are hospitalized. Comal County Health Department also confirms the death of a New Braunfels man in his 70's who passed away on November 26, 2020. The total number of deceased is now 139.

Region:	Number of new cases:
New Braunfels	57
N of Canyon Lake	3
S of Canyon Lake	5
S Comal County (Garden Ridge)	2
Bulverde/Spring Branch	12
Fair Oaks	0

Age Range:	Number of new cases:
Under 20	10
20's	6
30's / 40's	22
50's / 60's	23
70 and older	18

There are an additional 64 COVID-19 recoveries in Comal County. The total recovered is 4,566.

On Wednesday, Comal County hospitals reported caring for 50 COVID-19 patients; of those, 17 are in intensive care, and nine are on ventilators. Not all of these patients are necessarily county residents; likewise, not all county residents hospitalized with COVID-19 are in Comal County hospitals.

As of Wednesday morning, Public Health has received reports of the following test information:

- 39,453 tests conducted
- 3,709 confirmed cases
- 1,790 probable cases
- Five suspect cases

The State of Texas Department of State Health Services changed the way it reports the seven-day positivity rate and Comal County is following suit. The positivity rate will now be split into two categories:

- 1. Molecular; calculates the percent positive only for PCR tests.**
- 2. Antigen; calculates percent positive only for antigen tests.**

**The seven-day Molecular positivity rate for Wednesday in Comal County is 11.84%.
The seven-day Antigen positivity rate for Wednesday in Comal County is 12.09%.**

Of the 5,504 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

Location:	Number of cases total:
New Braunfels (Includes Eastern and Central Comal Co.)	3,964
Western Comal County (Includes Bulverde and Spring Branch)	837
South of Canyon Lake	297
North of Canyon Lake	209
Southern Comal County (Includes Garden Ridge and Schertz)	176
Fair Oaks Ranch	21

Residents wishing to be tested for COVID-19 can call the County’s dedicated hotline, 830-221-1120, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.

Testing is only done on Tuesday and Friday, and you must have an appointment.

Comal County’s Public Health Department reminds every one of the importance of following CDC guidelines of wearing a face covering, social distancing, staying home when you are sick and hand hygiene.

Probable case definition

“Probable case” is a category established by the Texas Department of State Health Services to describe those who do not have a positive PCR test for COVID-19 but meet two of the following three criteria:

- Meets clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2.
- Meets presumptive* laboratory evidence.
 - Presumptive* laboratory evidence:
 - Detection of SARS-CoV-2 by antigen test in a respiratory specimen
- Meets vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.

A probable case is treated identically to a confirmed case and counts toward the County's positivity rate and total case tally.

Suspect case definition

A "Suspect case" meets supportive laboratory evidence with no prior history of being a confirmed or probable case. It is also counted towards the total case tally.

Supportive Laboratory Evidence means:

- **Detection of specific antibody in serum, plasma, or whole blood**
- **Detection of specific antigen by immunocytochemistry in an autopsy specimen.**

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