



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Comal County reports two deaths, 72 COVID-19 cases; Active cases now 781

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, December 17, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County reports an additional 72 COVID-19 cases today, bringing the County's total to 5,576. 49 are confirmed cases and 23 are probable cases. The County now has 781 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 41 are hospitalized.

Comal County Health Department also confirms the deaths of two New Braunfels residents; a woman in her 80's passed away on December 12 and a man in his 70's passed away on December 1.

The total number of deceased is now 141.

| Region: | Number of new cases: |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| New Braunfels | 59 |
| N of Canyon Lake | 3 |
| S of Canyon Lake | 3 |
| S Comal County (Garden Ridge) | 2 |
| Bulverde/Spring Branch | 5 |
| Fair Oaks | 0 |

| Age Range: | Number of new cases: |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Under 20 | 13 |
| 20's | 14 |
| 30's / 40's | 15 |
| 50's / 60's | 21 |
| 70 and older | 9 |

There are an additional 88 COVID-19 recoveries in Comal County. The total recovered is 4,654.

On Thursday, Comal County hospitals reported caring for 55 COVID-19 patients; of those, 18 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 Thursday morning, Public Health has received reports of the following test information:

- 39,735 tests conducted
- 3,758 confirmed cases
- 1,813 probable cases
- Five suspect cases

This week, 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 Thursday in Comal County is 13.97%.
The seven-day Antigen positivity rate for Thursday in Comal County is 13.08%.**

Of the 5,576 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.) | 4,023 |
| Western Comal County (Includes Bulverde and Spring Branch) | 842 |
| South of Canyon Lake | 300 |
| North of Canyon Lake | 212 |
| Southern Comal County (Includes Garden Ridge and Schertz) | 178 |
| 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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