



# COMAL COUNTY

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **County reports 8th COVID-19 death, 124 new COVID-19 cases**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 1, 2020:**

*NEW BRAUNFELS* — Comal County on Wednesday reported its eighth death related to COVID-19 and 124 new confirmed and probable cases.

A hospitalized New Braunfels man in his 70s with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and underlying medical conditions died over the weekend; the Office of Public Health confirmed his death late Tuesday.

Of the 124 new cases, 74 are confirmed and 50 are probable; 86 are New Braunfels-area residents, 23 are from the Bulverde/Spring Branch area, 10 live south of Canyon Lake, three live north of Canyon Lake, and two are from the Garden Ridge area. Ages range from under 18 to older than 80, with a plurality of cases in their 20s and other significant increases among residents in their 40s, 60s and 70s.

Comal County's positivity rate – the percentage of tests with a positive result – is now 12.17%, up from 10.28% on Tuesday and 8.65% one week ago. It's the highest rate the county has recorded since the pandemic began.

“Some of the spike we're reporting today comes from our office catching up from a large influx of reports over the weekend,” said Cheryl Fraser, director of public health, “but as the positivity rate shows, we are seeing significant spread throughout the community, especially in New Braunfels and Bulverde.”

The county also confirmed 13 more recoveries from COVID-19, for a total of 275. With eight deaths, the county now has 495 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. An additional 11 hospitalizations were confirmed, bringing that total to 36.

Among nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, the Office of Public Health is aware of the following outbreaks:

- 27 residents and 14 staff at the Heights of Bulverde
- 8 residents and 5 staff at Kirkwood Manor in New Braunfels

- 32 residents and 10 staff at River Gardens in New Braunfels

“COVID-19 is putting incredible pressure on our local health care system, and we are seeing increased stress in staffing capabilities across the board,” Fraser said. “Face coverings, social distancing and hand washing are the best tools we have to fight the spread of the coronavirus, and we need to use them.”

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

- 6,393 tests conducted
- 599 confirmed cases
- 179 probable cases

Of the 778 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

- 573 from the New Braunfels area, including eastern and central Comal County
- 125 from western Comal County, including Bulverde and Spring Branch
- 40 from south of Canyon Lake
- 22 from north of Canyon Lake, including Fischer
- 16 from southern Comal County, including Garden Ridge and Schertz
- 2 from Fair Oaks Ranch

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. The hotline will be closed Friday for the Independence Day holiday.

### **Probable case definition**

“Probable cases” 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:

- A positive quick-result antigen test
- Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case

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

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