



# COMAL COUNTY

---

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

Paul A. Anthony · 830-221-1110 · anthop@co.comal.tx.us

**Contact:**

Paul A. Anthony, Public Information Officer  
830.221.1110  
anthop@co.comal.tx.us

### **County confirms six COVID-19 deaths tied to nursing homes, reports 103 new cases**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 8, 2020:**

*NEW BRAUNFELS* — Comal County has confirmed six new deaths related to COVID-19, all of them residents of area nursing homes, while also reporting 103 new cases of the disease.

Five of the deaths occurred among residents of The Heights of Bulverde, and the sixth was a resident of Kirkwood Manor in New Braunfels.

“Our prayers and condolences go with the loved ones of these men and women,” said County Judge Sherman Krause. “One death is too many, and we have now lost 15 members of our community to this virus. These tragedies remind us that it is critical to protect ourselves and our families.”

The Kirkwood Manor resident was a man in his 90s who died Monday in a San Antonio hospital. The five Heights of Bulverde residents were:

- A man in his 60s who died July 1 in a San Antonio hospital.
- A woman in her 80s with underlying medical conditions who died at the facility Monday.
- Another woman in her 80s died in a San Antonio hospital Monday.
- A woman in her 70s who died in a San Antonio hospital Tuesday.
- A man in his 90s with underlying medical conditions who died in a New Braunfels hospital Tuesday.

The deaths were reported to the Office of Public Health late Tuesday.

Comal County is working with the City of New Braunfels to provide additional support and resources to local nursing homes and other long-term residential health care facilities as they battle the coronavirus. Additional details will be released Thursday.

Long-term care facilities in Comal County have reported the following case numbers to the Office of Public Health:

- River Gardens in New Braunfels: 77 cases (55 residents, 22 staff), four of them hospitalized
- The Heights of Bulverde: 54 cases (30 residents, 24 staff), five deaths
- Kirkwood Manor in New Braunfels: 12 cases (nine residents, three staff), one death
- Colonial Manor in New Braunfels: 4 cases (two residents, two staff)

In addition, Comal County on Wednesday reported 103 new confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases for a total of 1,092.

Of the new cases, 75 are confirmed and 28 are probable; 76 are New Braunfels-area residents, 16 are from the Bulverde/Spring Branch area, seven are from the Garden Ridge area, two live north of Canyon Lake, one lives south of Canyon Lake, and one is from Fair Oaks Ranch. Thirty-nine are younger than 30, including one child under 1; 39 are in their 30s or 40s, 16 are in their 50s or 60s, and nine are older than 70.

Comal County's positivity rate – the percentage of tests with a positive result – is now 13.64%, up from 12.61% on Tuesday and 12.17% one week ago.

The county also confirmed 17 more recoveries from COVID-19, for a total of 355. With 15 deaths, the county now has 722 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 32 remain hospitalized.

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

- 8,005 tests conducted
- 825 confirmed cases
- 267 probable cases

Of the 1,092 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

- 790 from the New Braunfels area, including eastern and central Comal County
- 188 from western Comal County, including Bulverde and Spring Branch
- 55 from south of Canyon Lake
- 28 from southern Comal County, including Garden Ridge and Schertz
- 26 from north of Canyon Lake, including Fischer
- 5 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.

### **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.

###