



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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County confirms 30th COVID-19 death, reports 73 new cases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 15, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County has confirmed its 30th death related to COVID-19 and is reporting 73 new cases of the disease for a total of 1,422.

A woman in her 70s with underlying medical conditions who lived in the Heights of Bulverde died Sunday in a New Braunfels hospital, the seventh death among residents of that nursing home.

Of the new cases, 60 are confirmed and 13 are probable; 56 are New Braunfels-area residents, seven are from the Bulverde/Spring Branch area, four live south of Canyon Lake, three live north of Canyon Lake, and three are from the Garden Ridge area. Twenty-one are younger than 30, 19 are in their 30s or 40s, 27 are in their 50s or 60s, and six are older than 70.

Comal County's positivity rate – the percentage of tests with a positive result – is now 16.05%, up from 15.44% on Tuesday and 13.64% one week ago.

The following long-term care facilities have reported case information to the Comal County Office of Public Health, including the date of their last report:

- River Gardens, New Braunfels (Friday): 80 cases (58 residents, 22 staff), 1 death, 3 hospitalized
- Colonial Manor, New Braunfels (Tuesday): 60 cases (34 residents, 26 staff), 5 hospitalized
- The Heights of Bulverde (Friday): 57 cases (33 residents, 24 staff), 7 deaths
- Kirkwood Manor, New Braunfels (Tuesday): 57 cases (37 residents, 20 staff), 7 deaths, 3 hospitalized
- Legend Oaks, New Braunfels (Tuesday): 3 cases (1 resident, 2 staff), 1 death
- Sundance Inn, New Braunfels (Friday): 3 cases (staff)
- EdenHill, New Braunfels (Friday): 2 cases, both hospice workers
- Elan Westpointe, New Braunfels (Tuesday): 1 case (staff)

To help support local nursing homes battling coronavirus outbreaks, the emergency management offices of Comal County and the City of New Braunfels have established a resource center at New Braunfels City Hall. Long-term residential health care facilities who need personal protective equipment and other resources can call 830-221-4618 to request them.

At Colonial Manor's request, the resource center has asked for a quick response force through the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Texas Department of State Health Services to test all residents and staff at the facility.

COVID-19 case data

The county also confirmed 39 more recoveries from COVID-19, for a total of 516. With 30 deaths, the county now has 876 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 55 are hospitalized, an increase of six.

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

- 8,862 tests conducted
- 1,077 confirmed cases
- 345 probable cases

Of the 1,422 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

- 1,039 from the New Braunfels area, including eastern and central Comal County
- 231 from western Comal County, including Bulverde and Spring Branch
- 76 from south of Canyon Lake
- 36 from north of Canyon Lake, including Fischer
- 35 from southern Comal County, including Garden Ridge and Schertz
- 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.

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