



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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County confirms two new COVID-19 deaths, reports 109 new cases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 18, 2020:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County has confirmed two new deaths related to COVID-19, bringing the total to 37, and is reporting 109 new cases of the disease for a total of 1,667.

The confirmed deaths are both women in their 90s with underlying medical conditions; one died Thursday at the Heights of Bulverde, and the other died Friday at Colonial Manor in New Braunfels.

They mark the eighth COVID-19 death from the Heights of Bulverde and the third from Colonial Manor since the outbreak began in those facilities.

Of the new cases, 103 are confirmed and six are probable; 87 are New Braunfels-area residents, 13 are from the Bulverde/Spring Branch area, seven live south of Canyon Lake, and two live north of Canyon Lake. Forty-four are younger than 30, 38 are in their 30s or 40s, 21 are in their 50s or 60s, and six are older than 70.

On Saturday morning, Comal County hospitals reported caring for 57 COVID-19 patients; of those, 22 are in intensive care beds, and 14 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.

Comal County's positivity rate is now 17.68%, up from 17.00% on Thursday and 15.10% one week ago.

The county also confirmed 23 more recoveries from COVID-19, for a total of 569. With 37 deaths, the county now has 1,061 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 63 are hospitalized, an increase of four.

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

- 9,428 tests conducted
- 1,300 confirmed cases

- 367 probable cases

Of the 1,667 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

- 1,245 from the New Braunfels area, including eastern and central Comal County
- 253 from western Comal County, including Bulverde and Spring Branch
- 87 from south of Canyon Lake
- 40 from north of Canyon Lake, including Fischer
- 37 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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