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Comal County adds 170 new COVID-19 cases; five deaths

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, January 5, 2021:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County is reporting 170 new cases of COVID-19 for a total of 6,545 cases.

12 are confirmed cases and 158 are probable.

Public Health also confirms the deaths of five more Comal County residents.

- A NB woman in her 80s died on 1/3/21
- A NB man in his 80s died on 1/3/21
- A NB woman in his 80s on 1/3/21
- A NB man in his 50s died on 12/31
- A Southern Comal County man in his 70s died on 12/31

The total number of deceased is now 168.

The County has 873 active confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases. Of those, 56 are hospitalized.

Region:	Number of new cases:
New Braunfels	129
N of Canyon Lake	7
S of Canyon Lake	10
S Comal County (Garden Ridge)	5
Bulverde/Spring Branch	19
Fair Oaks	0

Age Range:	Number of new cases:
Under 20	25
20's	23
30's / 40's	60
50's / 60's	40
70 and older	22

There are no additional COVID-19 recoveries reported today in Comal County. The total recovered is 5,504.

On Tuesday, Comal County hospitals reported caring for 89 COVID-19 patients; of those, 17 are in intensive care and 11 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.

TSA P percentage today is 20.52 %.

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

- 45,454 tests conducted
- 3.925 confirmed cases
- 2,611 probable cases
- Nine suspect cases.

The seven-day Molecular positivity rate for Tuesday in Comal County is 19.85%. The seven-day Antigen positivity rate for Tuesday in Comal County is 14.49 %.

Of the 6,545 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Comal County, the location breakdown is:

Location:	Number of cases total:
New Braunfels	4,775
(Includes Eastern and Central Comal Co.)	
Western Comal County	946
(Includes Bulverde and Spring Branch)	
South of Canyon Lake	357
North of Canyon Lake	254
Southern Comal County	190
(Includes Garden Ridge and Schertz)	
Fair Oaks Ranch	23

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.**

If you are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit https://www.co.comal.tx.us/Health.htm for information on vaccination criteria and locations. The Comal County Health Department is out of COVID-19 vaccine. All allotted COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. We will advise the public when we receive additional COVID-19 vaccine.

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.
 - o 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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