

COVID-19 PERIODIC UPDATE

July 24, 2020

Greetings from the offices of the Bee County Judge and the Mayor of the City of Beeville. In an effort to reduce the length of this update, we have removed information on previous daily updates. Please know that you can access the full text of all prior daily updates on our Bee OEM Facebook page.

We have received a large number of new confirmed cases. Please keep a few things in mind as you process the number.

First, since the end of June 2020, due in part to the national shortage of reagent, us having to switch testing facilities, and a dramatic, state-wide, increase in testing, the turnaround time for testing is lagging in some instances to two weeks or more. This is unacceptable to us, but it is the reality we exist in today. Because all positive test results are first reported to Region 11 of the Texas Department of State Health Services (“DSHS”), and because DSHS has to conduct its investigation to confirm the county of residence of each positive case – which is done through telephonic contact – there is additional delay on top of the 7-10 day or more lag time between testing and result reporting. The point is that each day’s confirmed cases could be from testing conducted a day ago, a week ago or even several weeks ago. We do not have access to any data that clarifies when a test was conducted and when a result was obtained.

Second, we have had multiple conversations, as recently as yesterday, with our Local Health Authority (Region 11 of DSHS) regarding guidance, insight and recommendations with respect to further or additional orders restricting movement and activities of Bee County residents and businesses in light of the dramatic increase in community cases. Our Local Health Authority does not recommend any additional restrictive measures at this time. They are doctors (M.D.’s, epidemiologists and public health professionals) and, moreover, as employees of DSHS, they work for the Texas agency charged with guiding the state through any health crisis, including COVID-19. And, they recommend that each Texan follow the rules and orders set out in Governor Abbott’s Orders.

Additionally, we have specifically inquired whether our Local Health Authority is considering entering any order preventing our local ISD’s from resuming person-to-person instruction, or preventing resumption of UIL-sanctioned extracurricular activities. Each time, our Local Health Authority has declined to consider any such order.

We are maintaining close communication with our local ISD’s as they each independently plan for how to best serve their service areas, and we can tell you without reservation, that each Superintendent and their respective administrative staff, as well as the Boards of Trustees, are working tirelessly to craft protocols and policies that will protect the health and safety of their students, teachers and administrators. This is a herculean effort in which the individual ISD’s are navigating within the confines set out by the Texas Education Agency and the University Interscholastic League and we are fortunate to have competent and thoughtful leadership at each of our County’s ISDs. The same is true for our parochial and charter school institutions. The professionals at the helm of each of these institutions are balancing the concerns of COVID-19 with the fundamental importance of what schools bring to the child and the community. We encourage you to engage with your respective school district should you have any questions regarding their plans for the school year; but we also urge you to recognize the conflicting issues that our schools are weighing in making the decisions that are best for their students, teachers and administrators.

Third, as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in Texas, our region, and our County, please understand that future restrictive orders may be issued. The only way to avoid continued or increased disruption to your daily life, is for every one of us to follow—to the letter—the orders in place.

CASE UPDATE

Total Bee County confirmed community cases: **304**

Total new cases reported today: **71**

On July 23, 2020, DSHS notified Bee County of 71 additional community cases (i.e. not TDCJ inmates), all of which were confirmed on July 23, 2020 by Region 11 of DSHS.

Male in his 20's	Male in his 10's	Female in her 20's	Female in her 70's
Male in his 20's	Male in his 60's	Female in her 10's	Female in her 50's
Male in his 30's	Male in his 30's	Female in her 10's	Female in her 80's
Male in his 40's	Male in his 50's	Male in his 50's	Female in her 20's
Female in her 40's	Female between 0-9	Male in his 40's	Female in her 40's
Male in his 60's	Male in his 60's	Female in her 20's	Female in her 70's
Female in her 30's	Female in her 40's	Female in her 40's	Male in his 50's
Male in his 40's	Male in his 30's	Female in her 50's	Female in her 40's
Female in her 40's	Male in his 30's	Female in her 60's	Female in her 70's
Female in her 50's	Female in her 30's	Male in his 30's	Female in her 40's
Male in his 50's	Male in his 20's	Female in her 30's	Male in his 20's
Female in her 40's	Female in her 20's	Female in her 70's	Female in her 80's
Male in his 70's	Female in her 10's	Female in her 70's	Male in his 70's
Female in his 30's	Male in his 40's	Female in her 70's	Female in her 30's
Female between 0-9	Male in his 60's	Male in his 80's	Male in his 30's
Female in her 50's	Male in his 40's	Female in her 30's	Male in his 40's
Male in his 30's	Female in her 50's	Male in his 30's	Male in his 60's
Male in his 40's	Female in her 50's	Female in her 20's	

DSHS DASHBOARD SUMMARY

As of 4:00 p.m. today, July 24, 2020, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (“DSHS”) dashboard, Bee County currently has

- 146 active cases;
- 138 recovered cases; and
- 369 total cases (non-prisoner and prisoner) since tracking began.

The dashboard also reflects one fatality in Bee County.

Bee County is situated in DSHS Region 11. Region 11 tracks non-inmate COVID-19 cases in Bee County, including contact tracing and quarantine management. The DSHS Dashboard, on the other hand, is maintained by DSHS in Austin, and in Austin, DSHS counts both non-inmate and inmate cases together. We understand that the Dashboard numbers do not always align with our confirmed cases and, like today, might not even add up. We have no control over the DSHS dashboard.

TDCJ DASHBOARD SUMMARY

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (“TDCJ”) Dashboard, reflects a total of 50 active cases— 33 in the McConnell Unit, 12 in the Garza West Unit, and 5 in the Garza East Unit. The TDCJ Dashboard reflects 15 “recovered” inmate cases. These numbers are fluctuating downward and upward, whereas our community case count only fluctuates upward, which impacts the confirmed total case count, but the larger data set of total cases means that the impact of the TDCJ fluctuation is less dramatic, but the issue persists.

With a total of 65 inmate cases (active and recovered), and 304 community cases, the Bee County total is: **369 total cases since tracking began.**

HOSPITALIZATION SUMMARY

As of noon today, 19 patients are hospitalized in Bee County with COVID-19, 12 females and 7 males. 14 of these patients are Bee County residents. Age ranges of the patients are: 2 between 40-49; 2 between 50-59; 6 between 60-69; 6 between 70-79; and 3 over 80.

ADDITIONAL DATA POINT

According to DSHS, the current total confirmed cases per 1,000 persons in Texas is at about 12.5. Stated otherwise, 12.5 out of every 1,000 Texans have or have had COVID-19. In Bee County, our ratio is a bit lower, at about 11.75 out of every 1,000 Bee Countians.

BEE COUNTY COVID-19 HOTLINE AND DRIVE-THROUGH TESTING FACILITY

Please contact our Hotline—**361-492-5981**—for COVID-19 questions and to conduct pre-screening interviews for COVID-19 testing at our Drive-Through Testing Facility.

PARTING SHOTS

Make no mistake, every time one of us lets our guard down, decides that the guidelines, orders, and reasonable requests do not apply to our particular situation—every time—we become a part of the pathway for COVID-19. Don’t be part of the pathway; be a dead end, a stop sign, a barrier.