



Guadalupe County Fire Marshal Office

Patrick Pinder, Fire Marshal

101 E. Court Street, Suite 208

Seguin, Texas 78155

(830) 303-8856



F.A.Q.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Can someone who has had COVID-19 spread the illness to others?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is [spreading from person-to-person](#). Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

How long someone is actively sick can vary so the decision on when to release someone from isolation is made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with doctors, infection prevention and control experts, and public health officials and involves considering specifics of each situation including disease severity, illness signs and symptoms, and results of laboratory testing for that patient.

Current [CDC guidance for when it is OK to release someone from isolation](#) is made on a case by case basis and includes meeting all of the following requirements:

- The patient is free from fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- The patient is no longer showing symptoms, including cough.
- The patient has tested negative on at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

Someone who has been released from isolation is not considered to pose a risk of infection to others.

How do I protect myself?

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention.html

Who is at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19?

Older adults and people of any age who have serious [underlying medical conditions](#) may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. Based upon available information to date, those most at risk include

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of any age with the following underlying medical conditions, particularly those that are not well controlled
 - Chronic lung disease or asthma
 - Congestive heart failure or coronary artery disease
 - Diabetes
 - Neurologic conditions that weaken ability to cough



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- Weakened immune system
- Chemotherapy or radiation for cancer (currently or in recent past)
- Sickle cell anemia
- Chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis
- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Lack of spleen or a spleen that doesn't function correctly
- Extreme obesity (body mass index [BMI] ≥ 40)
- People who are pregnant

What to do if I am sick?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

What is the CDC doing about COVID-19?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/summary.html#cdc-response>

Should I be concerned about my pets?

While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person in China. There is no reason to think that any animals including pets in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus. To date, CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19. At this time, there is no evidence that companion animals including pets can spread COVID-19. However, since animals can spread other diseases to people, it's always a good idea to wash your hands after being around animals. For more information on the many benefits of pet ownership, as well as staying safe and healthy around animals including pets, livestock, and wildlife, visit CDC's [Healthy Pets, Healthy People website](#).

How many confirmed cases does Guadalupe County have?

As of March 18, 2020, Guadalupe County has no confirmed cases

Are there any restrictions in Guadalupe County? i.e. mass gatherings, restaurant closures, etc..

As of March 18, 2020, there are no restrictions in Guadalupe County.

How do I get tested for COVID-19?

There is criteria that must be met prior to testing, however, if you are sick and have the symptoms of the Coronavirus, contact your primary care physician by phone prior to appearing at the doctor office.

Can I walk in to GRMC and get tested for COVID-19?

No, you must meet current symptom and travel criteria set by the CDC in order to be tested. Contact your primary care physician by phone and they can help you determine if you meet the testing criteria, or if you have a more common respiratory illness like the flu or a cold.



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Is Guadalupe County officials notified if someone tests positive somewhere else, but resides in Guadalupe County?

Yes, the State Health officials notify the Guadalupe County Office of Emergency Management whenever there is a positive test result on an individual whom resides in Guadalupe County.

Does the seasonal flu vaccine protect against the Coronavirus?

No, there is not currently a vaccine that protects against COVID-19.

How dangerous is the virus?

Although COVID-19 appears to be very contagious, current estimates indicate that only 2-3% of cases are fatal. For comparison, approximately 50% of Ebola cases are fatal and 15% of Measles cases are fatal.

The majority of fatalities occur among elderly people, individuals with compromised immune systems, and people with underlying health conditions.

Is it safe to travel?

Current travel advisories and restrictions for COVID-19 can be found at the CDC website below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

What do we do if we suspect we have a COVID-19 case?

The appropriate infection control measures, reporting processes for COVID-19 testing, information on clinical management, and additional guidance for healthcare providers can be found at:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

Healthcare providers can subscribe to the DSHS coronavirus page to receive updates on guidance as they occur.

It is recommended that providers attempt to rule out common explanatory illnesses such as influenza, strep throat, and other respiratory infections before proceeding with COVID-19 testing.

COVID-19 is a notifiable condition and providers should report suspected patients to the local health department whether samples are sent to a private commercial lab or state lab.

Where can planning guidance for healthcare providers be found?

Both CDC and DSHS have released extensive guidance for providers and the public. These resources can be accessed at the following websites:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Is there a COVID-19 test kit that my healthcare facility can purchase?

Some commercial laboratories have started to provide COVID-19 testing. Testing of suspected cases by public health in Texas is currently proceeding through Texas laboratory response network (LRN) labs and being confirmed by CDC; only patients who meet CDC clinical and epidemiological criteria are eligible to be tested through LRN labs. Test kits cannot be provided to individual healthcare facilities at this time.



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Small Business Resources

Federal Resources

Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest loans to businesses and homeowners. This webpage includes the following:

- [Disaster Assistance](#) webpage that has links to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loan online and check application status.
- [Guide to the disaster loan process](#) that includes a list of the documents needed to apply.
- [A Map](#) to find a local disaster field office.
- For additional assistance, the SBA may be contacted at 1-800-659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Internal Revenue Service

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 with the following:

- News releases regarding the tax deadline extension.
- Online resources to help taxpayers with filing and refunds.

U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has created a resource page with the following information:

- [Guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19](#) from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Information on common issues employers and employees face when responding to COVID-19 including information on the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family Medical Leave Act.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency provides tips on avoiding cyber scams related to COVID-19.

State Resources

Office of the Governor – Business Resource Website

The Texas Economic Development office under the Office of the Governor has a website dedicated to providing COVID-19 updates, resources, and information for Texas businesses. The page includes the following:



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- FAQ's relating to COVID -19 for Texas businesses.
- Detailed section on how small businesses and private, non-profit organizations can apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL).
- Information on unemployment benefits for those affected by COVID-19, and a link to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) website.

[Texas Workforce Commission](#)

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has created a COVID-19 page for employers and jobseekers. Employers, employees, and job seekers can sign up for TWC COVID-19 [email updates here](#).

- [Employers](#)
 - [COVID-19 FAQ for Texas Employers](#)
 - [TWC COVID-19 Letter to Texas Employers](#)
 - [Managing Multiple and Mass Layoffs](#)
 - Unemployment benefit information for employers
 - TWC Tax Department
 - Precautions for Employers
 - [TWC's Shared Work Program](#) for those needing to reduce employee hours.
- [Employees and Job Seekers](#)
 - Unemployment Benefits
 - Unemployment Benefit Claim Self-Service
 - Precautions for employees
 - Child Care and Early Learning COVID-19 Information

[Texas Department of Insurance](#)

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has a COVID-19 resource page. Businesses are encouraged to check with their agent or carrier regarding specific questions about their policy or coverage. TDI has information on the following:

- Guidance to Industry: Information on regulatory relief and waiver action taken by the Governor and the Insurance Commissioner.
- Texas health insurers waiving cost-sharing: Lists which health insurers and HMOS's that are waiving consumer costs for medically-necessary testing for COVID-19, some of which are also offering telemedicine at no cost to consumers.
- Business insurance, such as business interruption insurance, event cancelation insurance, and general liability insurance.



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Other Resources

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has a resource page with the following:

- [Workplace tips for employers](#)
- [Guidance for employers](#) to help prevent workplace exposure while continuing operations.
- [Small Business Guide](#) that included resources and tips
- [Communications toolkit](#) to assist businesses using social media, websites, and other resources.

[National Federation of Independent Business](#)

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) has a COVID-19 resource page that includes:

- [Financial Resources](#) including information on the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.
- Tips on [how small businesses can prepare for COVID-19](#)
- [Legislative updates](#) on COVID-19

For more information and resources in reference to the coronavirus, visit www.co.guadalupe.tx.us