



WHARTON COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Phillip Spenrath – Wharton County Judge

County Health Authority – Dr. Jeffrey Gubbels

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Wharton County, TX, Monday, October 12, 2020 1400 hours

Wharton County Office of Emergency Management has received reports from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that we have **two (2)** new positive cases of COVID-19, and **eight (8)** recoveries. Sadly, we have been notified of **eight (8)** additional fatalities due to COVID-19, thus our total number of deaths is now at **forty-seven (47)**.

We have been asked many times why our numbers do not ‘jive’ with the numbers on the DSHS website. There are a number of reasons. First – there are over 600 laboratories that send thousands of test results to the DSHS and to local health departments on a daily basis. Wharton County does NOT have a health department, so the state funnels those numbers to Public Health Region 6/5 located in Houston. There they are further sorted into counties in our area. Then those cases are sent to our Office of Emergency Mgmt and we compile those cases into our database. Secondly - the DSHS website uses ‘estimates’ of recovered and does not count probable cases. We DO include probables in our caselog, because of the 47 deaths we have now had verified, nine (9) of those were considered probable cases when they came into us. Some of our probables are hospitalized, and contribute to the hospitalization statistics that are also used as a measure to opening up to full capacity. If those probables were confirmed before death or recovery, we do not get that information until afterwards, and sometimes, not at all.

At this time, the main statistic we are keeping a close eye on is the number of new cases per report. The new measure of reopening to 100% is based on the cumulative number of new cases within a 14-day period being less than 20. We are not at that point yet. In the last 14 days we have added 45 cases. If you have any questions on this, please do not hesitate to call our office at 979.532.1123.

IMPORTANT: County-wide testing will be Tuesday, October 13, at the City of Wharton Civic Center, 8 am - 4 pm. No prior registration is necessary. This is a free test.

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Wharton County OEM will provide updates at <http://www.co.wharton.tx.us/> and on facebook.