



McLennan County Leadership Response Team Continuing Response to COVID-19

City of Bellmead

City of Beverly Hills

City of Bruceville-Eddy

City of Crawford

City of Gholson

City of Golinda

City of Hallsburg

City of Hewitt

City of Lacy-Lakeview

City of Leroy

City of Lorena

City of Mart

City of McGregor

City of Moody

City of Riesel

City of Robinson

City of Ross

City of Waco

City of West

City of Woodway

McLennan County

(April 6, 2020) The McLennan County Leadership Response Team includes Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, Ascension Providence, and Baylor Scott & White, the Family Health Center, Premier Care as well as other entities. Collectively, the Leadership Response Team have addressed the following questions: 1) How are the hospitals and clinics in McLennan County preparing to take care of COVID-19 patients, 2) How many people are being tested, and 3) When will we see a peak in positive cases?

The Waco-McLennan County Leadership Response Team is working together to ensure that all of our hospitals, clinics and other health care partners have the resources they need to take care of patients; including having enough Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), identifying possible alternative care sites and managing a potential surge of patients. The Leadership Response Team also works with local elected officials and the Waco-McLennan County Emergency Operations Center on all of these issues. If needed, alternative care sites will be developed to ensure that we will be able to take care of those in need of medical attention.

There is adequate testing available for health care staff, first responders, people who have COVID-19 symptoms, and people who are at high risk for developing serious complications. Anyone concerned about their health or who wants to be tested for COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider by website or phone. If you need to see your healthcare provider for a regular appointment, please contact them first. There are safe ways to communicate with your doctor other than a traditional office visit. Phone consultations are available and they will keep you safe from unnecessary exposure.

It is difficult to make predictions about when COVID-19 will peak in McLennan County. There are national and state-wide predictions based on information gathered from a variety of sources and are updated on a daily basis as new information is available. Even with all of this information, any predictions or estimates of when the virus will peak are still only a guess.

Key Factors to remember

1. Predicting a date when the virus will peak does not mean that it will happen on that date.
2. A peak does not signal the end of the pandemic or provide a goal point for returning to regular activities.
3. The social distancing we do now will make a difference on how fast the virus spreads. The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is through strong social distancing practices. By lowering the amount time you spend with others, you lower your risk for catching the virus. When we do this together as a community, we have the power to protect our community from COVID-19.
4. COVID-19 will likely have waves of increasing infection. The current situation is considered the first wave. We are unsure when the second wave will occur. Some models predict the fall and others predict an early summer wave. As we learn more about COVID-19, we will be able to provide more information, but that will take time.
5. Healthcare facilities are required to notify the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District when they receive a positive test of COVID-19. We receive case information 24 hours a day and report this information to the public every day at 3pm.

The Waco-McLennan County Leadership Response Team is dedicated to caring for the medical needs of McLennan County during this pandemic.