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McLennan County

Public Health District Updates How Active and Recovered Cases Are Reported

(July 14, 2020) The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District is transitioning the way that active and recovered cases are counted and how the information will be reported.

Until the last week of June, the Public Health District was contacting each of the positive cases daily until they met the criteria for discontinuation of isolation. Due to the exponential increase in cases, the Public Health District has discontinued the daily check-in. In response to this change in process, the Public Health District will be counting persons who are 10 days from their symptom onset/date of collection as recovered. This number would provide us the best estimate of recoveries in the County. The Public Health District with assistance of the Texas Department of State Health Services will continue to investigate positive cases to provide proper isolation guidelines and to identify close contacts and potential clusters.

In addition, the methodology for reporting recovered cases has been changed, which would lead to a change in the number of active cases being reported. Active cases were calculated by subtracting the number of recovered and deceased persons from the total number of cases. The language on the daily updates will change from “Recovered” to “Estimated Recovered”. CDC’s guidelines state that anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must stay in isolation until they meet the following three criteria:

- 1) At least 10 days from symptom onset **AND**
- 2) 72 hours of no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
- 3) Respiratory symptoms are improving

For persons who do not have any symptoms, they should be in isolation for at least 10 days from the date their test was collected.

Close contacts of positive cases should self-quarantine for 14 days from the last day of exposure to a positive case.

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