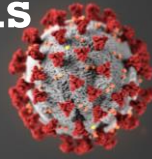


DSHS Region 8

Coronavirus
Update
12/14/2020



Region 8 Responds

The Regional Health and Medical Operations Center (RHMO) is open 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please send inquiries, questions, subscription requests or reports to Region8COVID-19@dshs.texas.gov or call 210-949-2121. **Please Note: The Region 8 Daily Update is intended for emergency managers, elected officials, infection preventionists and public health stakeholders. We encourage you to share with appropriate entities, but we do not consent to posting the Daily Update on social media platforms. Anyone who would like to receive the Daily Update can request to be added to the distribution list by emailing Region8COVID-19@dshs.texas.gov**

Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Receives EUA from the FDA

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer. This vaccine along with the Moderna vaccine (to be considered for an EUA this week) are mRNA vaccines.

Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response and build immunity to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In contrast, most vaccines use weakened or inactivated versions or components of the disease-causing pathogen to stimulate the body's immune response to create antibodies. mRNA vaccines have strands of genetic material called mRNA inside a special coating. That coating protects the mRNA from enzymes in the body that would otherwise break it down. It also helps the mRNA enter the muscle cells near the vaccination site. mRNA can be described as instructions for the cell on how to make a piece of the "spike protein" that is unique to SARS-CoV-2. Since only part of the protein is made, it does not do any harm to the person vaccinated but is antigenic, meaning it can trigger an immune response. After the piece of the spike protein is made, the cell breaks down the mRNA strand and disposes of them using enzymes in the cell. It is important to note that the mRNA strand never enters the cell's nucleus or affects genetic material. Once displayed on the cell surface, the protein or antigen causes the immune system to begin producing antibodies and activating T-cells to fight off what it thinks is an infection. (continued)

(continued from first column)

These antibodies are specific to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which means the immune system is primed to protect against future infection.

mRNA vaccines are new, but not unknown. Researchers have been studying them for decades. Early stage clinical trials using mRNA vaccines have been carried out for influenza, Zika, rabies and cytomegalovirus (CMV). Recent technological advancements in RNA biology and chemistry, as well as delivery systems, have improved the stability, safety and effectiveness of mRNA vaccines. Other than vaccines, numerous preclinical and clinical studies have used mRNA to encode cancer antigens to stimulate immune responses targeted at clearing or reducing malignant tumors. mRNA vaccines have several benefits compared to other types of vaccines including use of a non-infectious element, shorter manufacturing times, and the potential for targeting multiple diseases. mRNA vaccines can be developed in a laboratory using a DNA template and readily available materials. This means the process can be standardized and scaled up, making vaccine development faster than traditional methods. In the future, mRNA vaccine technology may allow for one vaccine to target multiple diseases. For more, see

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/mrna-vaccine-basics.html>

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment

To enroll as a COVID-19 provider go to the registration portal at [EnrollTexas@dshs.texas.gov](https://enroll.texas.dshs.texas.gov). For questions or more information on the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, visit the [DSHS COVID-19 website](https://dshs.texas.gov/covid-19) or email COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov. To see regional enrollment <https://txdshs.quickbase.com/db/bqx23e68f>

COVID-19 Testing Sites

Registration for mobile testing sites is now available at <https://Texas.curativeinc.com/welcome>. For walk-up sites, you can register on site. For more information on additional test sites state-wide, visit <https://txcovidtest.org>. For more information on San Antonio testing sites, click [here](#). Hospitals and doctors' offices may also provide testing.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

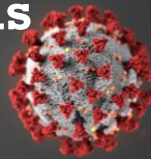
Texas Department of State
Health Services

Dept. of State Health Services
7430 Louis Pasteur
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 949-2000 phone
(210) 949-2015 fax

dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

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COVID-19 Cases at a Glance

Texas				USA			World	
1,472,711				16,113,148			71,051,805	
REGION 8	Case Type			Status			Summary	
	Pending Investigation	Confirmed	Probable	Active	Recovered	Deaths	Total	New
	3632	118239	21045	7744	132895	2282	142916	+1214
Counties								
Atascosa	400	1571	357	168	2142	18	2328	+29
Bandera	79	273	62	40	371	3	414	+4
Bexar~	0	77680	16502	3710	89043	1429	94182	+655
Calhoun	70	998	35	45	1050	8	1103	+5
Comal	0	3645	1681	770	4425	136	5326	+59
DeWitt	0	1262	0	119	1086	57	1262	-
Dimmit	67	357	22	54	388	4	446	+14
Edwards	35	115	9	24	135	0	159	+12
Frio	217	876	108	123	1073	5	1201	+62
Gillespie	227	703	130	102	955	3	1060	+15
Goliad	0	202	56	9	244	5	258	+10
Gonzales	172	1229	43	78	1356	10	1444	+14
Guadalupe	768	4471	558	312	5439	46	5797	+63
Jackson	111	792	35	54	876	8	938	+2
Karnes	75	506	30	45	557	9	611	+2
Kendall	312	551	279	106	1030	6	1142	+18
Kerr	438	975	220	221	1400	12	1633	+26
Kinney	7	57	1	4	61	0	65	+1
LaSalle	0	228	20	58	186	4	248	+8
Lavaca	137	1347	98	43	1526	13	1582	+5
Maverick	0	5387	0	620	4616	151	5387	+40
Medina	119	1321	568	166	1807	35	2008	+56
Real	14	139	3	4	150	2	156	+3
Uvalde	0	1337	45	102	1237	43	1382	+31
Val Verde	0	3629	0	352	3134	143	3629	-
Victoria	0	5381	9	231	5056	103	5390	+31
Wilson	264	1231	142	143	1473	21	1637	+22
Zavala	76	672	32	30	742	8	780	+11
Correctional/ICE Facilities								
TDCJ†	0	851	0	9	842	0	851	+15
ICE‡	42	326	0	2	366	0	368	+1
Other§	2	127	0	0	129	0	129	-
†DeWitt: Stevenson Unit (78); Frio: Briscoe Unit (65); Medina: Ney Unit (170), Torres Unit (208); Karnes: Connally Unit (330); LaSalle: Cotulla Unit (203)								
‡Frio County (258), Karnes County (152), LaSalle County (18)								
§Atascosa County Jail (14), Dimmit County Jail (25), Guadalupe County Jail (7), Jackson County Jail (1), Karnes County Jail (2), Karnes County Det. Facility (42), Kinney County Det. Facility (37), Uvalde County Jail (1)								
Region 8 Case Summary							Total	New
RHMOC							27234	+411
Community Cases							25886	+395
Inmate†/Detainee‡ Cases							1348	+16
Local Health Entities*							115682	+803
*Bexar, Comal, DeWitt, Goliad, LaSalle, Maverick, Val Verde & Victoria Counties								
TOTAL							142916	+1214

~Bexar County Active & Recovered Counts estimated by percentages reported on [SAMHD COVID Table Data](#)



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