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*Hunt County Judge*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Hunt County Judge

Date: 7/30/2020, 9:00pm

Re: 27 New Positive COVID-19 Test Results in Hunt County, and State Death Reporting Mismatch Update

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27 new positive test results for COVID-19 have been reported in Hunt County. The Hunt County Health Department completed an initial investigation and determined that the individuals in question reside in Hunt County. The general information for the 27 new patients is on the following page. Hunt County will include up-to-date hospital numbers in the morning report.

Because three of the earlier Tracked Cases were either outside of the County or tested negative, there have been a total of 1,049 positive cases of Hunt County residents to date.

The new cases from today are in the following general areas: Greenville 75401 (9); Greenville 75402 (6); Quinlan 75474 (5); Royse City 75189 – (3); Commerce 75428 – (3); and Campbell 75422 – (1).

Each morning, the County will release and post on its website a new set of numbers and charts showing the total number of cases, including the status and ZIP Codes of those cases. The state’s website includes a map which may be accessed at “[dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus](https://dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus)” by clicking on the “Texas Case Counts” link.

It has been reported to the County that the State’s COVID-19 fatality numbers far exceed the locally-reported numbers of deaths. The State’s reporting can be accessed by clicking on “Fatalities over Time” on [www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/additionaldata](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/additionaldata). **As of this afternoon, the state shows 20 COVID-19 fatalities of Hunt County residents.** This divergence is due to a recent change in the way the state calculates COVID-19 deaths, which in part uses death certificate information not yet available to the County. When Hunt County releases its morning reports, it will show the number of state-reported deaths, and the number of deaths that the County Health Department has been able to independently confirm. A more complete explanation may be found on the following page.

A conference call with officials from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) was held on July 30, 2020. During the conference call, officials clarified the State’s new protocol for counting COVID-19 fatalities and provided explanations for the discrepancies between county and state fatality totals.

COVID-19 fatality totals that DSHS lists on its website are strictly derived from death records filed with the state. These records include locally certified *and* non-certified reports. The death certificate data DSHS is using for fatality counts will apparently be made available to local governments shortly, but no specific date has been provided.

Continued discrepancies in data are expected because some death certificates list an incorrect county of residence for the deceased. As a result, some deaths are counted in the incorrect county. DSHS fatality totals reflect death certificate data, even if that data is incorrect. As death certificates are amended, DSHS county fatality counts may be altered. DSHS data does not distinguish between confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. Hunt County will continue to conduct its own investigations into fatalities and will only report fatalities which are confirmed to be Hunt County residents with an official cause of death listed as COVID-19.

New Hunt County COVID-19 Tracked Cases, July 30, 2020: “RAH” means “Recovering at Home,” “HOSP” means “Hospitalized,” and “(R)” Means “Reassigned”

Case	Age Range	M/F	ZIP Code	Status
1026	0-17	F	75401	RAH
1027	31-49	M	75189	RAH
1028	50-64	F	75402	RAH
1029	31-49	M	75401	RAH
1030	50-64	F	75401	RAH
1031	31-49	M	75401	RAH
1032	0-17	M	75401	RAH
1033	0-17	F	75474	RAH
1034	18-30	F	75401	RAH
1035	50-64	F	75474	RAH
1036	50-64	M	75401	RAH
1037	65+	M	75474	RAH
1038	31-49	M	75402	RAH
1039	65+	M	75189	RAH

  

Case	Age Range	M/F	ZIP Code	Status
1040	0-17	M	75474	RAH
1041	31-49	M	75401	HOSP
1042	65+	F	75402	RAH
1043	18-30	F	75402	RAH
1044	31-49	F	75402	RAH
1045	31-49	M	75474	RAH
1046	0-17	M	75428	RAH
1047	31-49	M	75428	RAH
1048	50-64	M	75189	RAH
1049	18-30	F	75428	RAH
1050	18-30	F	75401	RAH
1051	0-17	F	75422	RAH
1052	50-64	F	75402	RAH