

## **COVID-19 PERIODIC UPDATE**

JUNE 15, 2020

Greetings from the offices of the Bee County Judge and the Mayor of the City of Beeville. In an effort to reduce the length of this update, we have removed information on previous daily updates. Please know that you can access the full text of all prior daily updates on our Bee OEM facebook page.

### **BEE COUNTY COVID-19 HOTLINE AND DRIVE-THROUGH TESTING FACILITY**

Our Hotline—**361-492-5981**—is open Wednesday and Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are available to answer COVID-19 questions and conduct pre-screening interviews for COVID-19 testing at our Drive-Through Testing Facility.

Our Drive-Through Testing Facility is continuing to conduct COVID-19 testing on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

If you think you may have COVID-19, if you are exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have come into contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, you should either call your medical provider or call us. We are here to help.

### **CREDIBILITY OF CASE REPORTING AT ISSUE**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reports that Bee County has **31 cases**. The DSHS dashboard (where COVID-19 numbers are updated statewide) is located at: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>.

As most of you are aware by now, DSHS, specifically Region 11, acts as the Bee County Health Department. DSHS reports positive COVID-19 cases to Bee County (either directly to the Bee County Judge or to Mr. Willow, the Emergency Management Coordinator). In times past, notifications came on official DSHS letterhead and provided minimal additional information (age-range, sex, community or travel related transmission). The last written notice we received was for Case No. 24 on June 9th. At this point, I do not know if DSHS is going to continue providing written “press releases”. DSHS certainly has not provided any further information since notifying the County of Case No. 24.

Our Region 11 folks are not able to provide Bee County with advance notice of new cases. Apparently, the information gets distributed to the public at large directly by DSHS in Austin via its “COVID-19 dashboard.” Region 11 has not kept up with communicating the limited additional information on each case after Case 24.

TDCJ reports as of 2:30 pm today the following cases: McConnell – Offender Active: 4, Offender Recovered: 0, Employee Active: 2, Employee Recovered: 0; Garza East – Offender Active: 0, Offender Recovered: 3, Employee Active: 1, Employee Recovered: 0; and Garza West – Offender Active: 10, Offender Recovered: 1, Employee Active: 1, Employee Recovered: 0. The TDCJ dashboard is located at: [https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/covid-19/mac\\_dashboard.html](https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/covid-19/mac_dashboard.html).

Keep in mind that the TDCJ numbers are not cumulative like DSHS numbers. TDCJ numbers represent a “snapshot in time” and will fluctuate depending on the physical location of offenders testing positive.

In the *By The Numbers* section of this update, you may see missing information. We assure you, if we could get it, we would provide it to you. We continue to work with TDCJ and DSHS, and we have sought the assistance of Senator Zaffirini and Representative Lozano in curing the reporting inconsistencies by these State Agencies.

Our case count continues to steadily increase. TDCJ inmate cases should not be discounted because those inmates are cared for by our family, friends and neighbors. An outbreak at Garza East, Garza West of McConnell exposes Bee County to an increased risk of outbreak amongst those of us residing here of our own volition.

As COVID-19 penetrates further into our community, it is up to each of us as individuals to do our part to try to limit the spread. Messaging remains the same – wash your hands for 30 secs and often; stay 6-feet away from others; be considerate of those around you.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Summary**

Date	Total Cases to Date	Active Cases	Released from Quarantine	Probable Cases
6/15/2020	31	Unknown	Unknown	1

**Case by Case**

Case No.	Age Range	Sex	Date of Initial Positive	
			Notification	Transmission
1	40s	F	4/7/2020	Community
2	40s	M	4/9/2020	Travel
3	70s	F	4/11/2020	Community
4	70s	F	4/16/2020	Community
5	40s	M	4/16/2020	Community
6±	40s	M	4/29/2020	Community
6	30's	F	5/19/2020	Unknown
7	20's	M	5/19/2020	Community
8	50's	F	5/20/2020	Unknown
9	40's	M	5/23/2020	Travel
10	40's	M	6/2/2020	Community
11	20's	M	6/5/2020	Community
12	50's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
13	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
14	50's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
15	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
16	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
17	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
18	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
19	50's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
20	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
21	30's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
22	20's	M	6/8/2020	Community-TDCJ
23	40's	M	6/9/2020	Community
24	20's	F	6/9/2020	Community
25**				
26**				
27**				
28**				
29**				
30**				
31**				
Notes *Original case 6 was re-assigned to Live Oak County				
**DSHS has provided no information on these cases.				

## **Testing Info**

Testing Source	Total Tests	Positive Bee County	Re-tested Bee County Positive <sup>1</sup>	Positive Out of County	Re-tested Positive Out of County	Negative	Indeterminate	Pending
Drive-thru @ Expo	222	3	2	1	1	215	0	0
Private Clinics <sup>2</sup>	22	1	0	0	0	20	0	1
Military @Expo	339	2	Unknown	8	Unknown	289	6	34
Nursing Homes	288	0	0	0	251	0	0	37
Unknown Source <sup>3</sup>	Unknown	25	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Notes								
1. Prior positive was retested and came back positive.								
2. Not all Clinics are reporting.								
3. TXDHS reported these cases to us - this number includes all TDCJ Offender Cases in Bee County.								

## **TDCJ Info**

Offender or Employee	Active Case	Recovered Case
Offender	4	0
Employee	2	0
Offender	0	3
Employee	1	0
Offender	10	1
Employee	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>

### **TAKE-AWAYS**

**We had 24 cases on June 9 – Now we have 31 cases.**

On top of this continued increase in COVID-19 case counts in Bee County, we also have the troubling fact that DSHS reporting has broken down, in part due to the reporting approach implemented by TDCJ. DSHS reporting is also incomplete separate and apart from TDCJ. These 2 issues negatively impact our ability to present reliable information to the public and we continue to work with DSHS, TDCJ and our legislative representatives to remedy the situation.

Until we regain a level of trust with the reporting by DSHS and TDCJ, our strong recommendation is that everyone re-double their efforts to minimize community and travel-related spread of COVID-19 within Bee County. Dust off your social distancing skills and re-implement those skills in your day-to-day affairs.

Please: Keep up your social distancing efforts. Wash your hands. Be mindful of the risk of exposure to yourself, to your loved ones and to others, in all that you do. Keep those afflicted with the virus in your prayers.