



CITY OF
BEDFORD

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Tarrant County Public Health reported an additional 266 new cases yesterday with 5 additional deaths. 153 of these new cases were a result of accounting for increasing numbers related to the Federal Prison outbreak. Today, TCPH is reporting 135 new cases and 3 additional deaths. The County-wide totals now sit at 4,211 positive cases, 117 deaths, and 828 recoveries.

In discussions with the Dallas County Medical Society, several talking points were highlighted. Current tracking indicates that this area is seeing a plateauing of positive cases that differs from the data seen in other parts of the country (i.e. New York). Whereas New York has seen a peak and subsequent decline in its positive cases, DFW is currently experiencing a plateau at the peak. The medical community continues studying the effects on infected patients and one item of note is they are seeing new strains of COVID-19 that have, thus far, been resistant to creating immunity. In addition, they discussed that they have found that this virus affects far more than just respiratory functions. There is now clear evidence that this virus is affecting heart and kidney functions and is having a dramatic effect on children. Most notably is the development of symptoms in children that resemble Kawasaki disease (flattening of the blood vessels).

One last thing to note, it is expected that increased testing capacity will result in increased positive tests. However, doctors are cautioning us to pay attention to hospitalization rates rather than positive cases counts for signs of concern. Grayson County was noted because they experienced a dramatic increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations in recent weeks and this may be a precursor of increased cases in rural areas.

As you know, Bedford has cancelled its Fourth Fest for this year, which according to a recent survey from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, is in line with many other Cities. The survey results showed 60% of the municipalities have already elected to cancel Fourth of July festivities, 25% will continue with restricted events, and the remainder are undecided.