



NEWS RELEASE

For media inquiries, contact: Nick Wolda
nwolda@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, Tuesday, December 15, 2020



COVID-19 Testing — Insurance Updates, Second Testing Site Open

Testing is taking place at The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Blvd., The Woodlands, Texas 77381. As part of the COVID-19 testing, customers will now be asked to submit their insurance information when scheduling a test. Testing is still offered at **no cost to the customer**. Customers without insurance will still be tested at **no personal cost** using coverage from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. Please note, **WALK-UPS WELCOME**.

Additionally, Curative has added a **second testing site** in The Woodlands hosted by the Township, at Sterling Ridge Park and Ride, 8001 McBeth Way. **The site opened today, December 15, 2020**, and will remain open through January 31, 2021. It is a “self-serve” drive-thru operation with hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Please note the following holiday hours for both sites below. These may be different from hours that were published previously:

- Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24, 2020 – Closed
- Christmas Day: Friday, December 25, 2020 – Closed
- New Year’s Eve: Thursday, December 31, 2020 – Closed
- New Year’s Day: Friday, January 1, 2021 – Closed

For more information about COVID-19 testing by Curative, please visit the [Township website](#), or www.curative.com.



County News

Montgomery County COVID-19 Case Count December 15, 2020

Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, can confirm the following update related to COVID-19.

- TOTAL cases of COVID-19 increased by 400 to 21,608 since yesterday's (12/14) report. All 400 new cases were tested since 12/01/2020.
- ACTIVE cases of COVID-19 increased by 124 to 5,425 since yesterday's (12/14) report. On Tuesdays, additional "inactive" cases (those who have been unable to be contacted for more than 30 days) are factored in. Today, there are 148 additional inactive cases.
- 33 residents are known, as a result of contact investigations, to be in the hospital. Contact investigations have not been initiated on all reported cases.
- 12,394 people have clinically recovered.



The Testing Positivity Rate for Montgomery County is 11.7%. This number is updated weekly on Wednesdays. You can find [more information here](#).

Follow CDC guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- Avoid groups of people.
- Practice social distancing.

- Wear a mask in public (over your nose and mouth) or with others who live outside your household. Never share a mask with others.
- Teach children proper hygiene and the correct way to wear a mask.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Disinfect surfaces in your car and around your home.

*These numbers include PCR and rapid antigen testing. Antibody testing is not included. Have questions? Please go to <https://mcphd-tx.org/> and scroll down to the FAQs.



You can find more information on the SETRAC website, setrac.org. View the case-by-case updates from last week on the [MCPHD website](#). You can refer to the [dashboard](#). View the latest [CDC guidelines](#).

Harris County COVID-19 Case Count

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) publishes their daily case count, combined with the City of Houston's daily case count, [here](#). Cases by zip code in Harris County can be found by clicking on areas of the [map](#).

The Village of Creekside Park is located in two zip codes: 77375 and 77389, and these also include Magnolia, Augusta Pines/Auburn Lakes/West Rayford Road in northwest Harris County. Today, Harris County is reporting zip code 77375 has 1,997 confirmed positive cases with 325 active cases, and 77389 has 1,113 confirmed positive cases with 203 active cases.



COVID-19 Case Count Brief from The Woodlands Fire Department

All numbers since December 10, 2020.

Montgomery County

21,608 – Confirmed, +1,356

5,425 – Active, +689

183 – Deaths, +1

12,394 – Recovered, +518

33 – Hospitalized, +4

Harris County

104,632 – Confirmed, +4,375
13,939 – Active Cases, +1,600
1,048 – Deaths, +12
89,630 – Recovered, +2,763

Montgomery County Testing

Do you have questions regarding COVID-19 or COVID-19 testing? The Montgomery County COVID-19 Call Center's number is 936-523-3916. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Harris County Testing

Residents may also sign up for free COVID-19 testing online at hcphtx.org. Call 832-927-7575 for more information.

National News



CDC Recommendations for Winter Celebrations, Travel and Other Activities

Enjoy the holidays and take steps to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19. The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is to celebrate at home with the people you live with. Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. [Read the full article](#) for more information on holiday travel, tips to stay safe, safer celebrations and other winter holiday activities.



CDC Vaccine Update

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for

use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in people aged 16 years and older for the prevention of COVID-19.

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States will be limited at first, CDC recommends that initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine be allocated to healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents. The recommendations were made with the following goals in mind: Decrease death and serious disease as much as possible; Preserve functioning of society; and Reduce the extra burden COVID-19 is having on people already facing disparities.

Read the following CDC articles for more information. [8 Things to Know About the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#), [When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First?](#), [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Keep Up with Best Practices During the Pandemic at CDC.GOV

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COVID-19 Vaccines are in the Pipeline; Beware of Scammers

Reports about the release of COVID-19 vaccines are promising, but plans for distribution are still being worked out. While we wait for a timeline and more information on the roll-out of the vaccines, there's no doubt scammers will be scheming. [Read the full article for what you need to know to avoid a vaccine-related scam](#). The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched a new website, [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov), where consumers can easily report fraud and all other consumer issues directly to the FTC.



Federal Trade Commission Offers Tips to Avoid Gift Card Scams

Even in Santa's workshop, it's one of the most popular ways to give to family and friends for the holidays. But gift cards also are a favorite way for scammers to steal people's money. Anyone who demands that you pay them with a gift card, for any reason, is always a scammer. [Read more from the Federal Trade Commission's fourth day of Consumer Protection](#).

It's a Good Time to Get Your Flu Vaccine

While the United States remains focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to be aware of flu season as winter approaches, with activity peaking between December and February. Getting vaccinated now can lower your chances of getting the flu. Flu vaccines approved by the FDA provide important benefits and are your best defense from flu and its potential complications. [Learn more from the FDA.](#)

State News



Governor Attends Operation Warp Speed Briefing

Governor Greg Abbott yesterday visited the White House where he attended a briefing on Operation Warp Speed with Vice President Mike Pence and other state and federal leaders. During the briefing, the leaders discussed the ongoing COVID-19 response and the vaccine distribution currently taking place across the country and in Texas. The first shipments of COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Texas yesterday morning. 19,500 doses of the Pfizer vaccine were delivered yesterday, and an additional 19 sites will receive 75,075 doses today. [Read the full press release.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Activated for Long-Term Care Staff, Residents

On Friday, December 11, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the State of Texas will participate in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, a federal program to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term care facilities against COVID-19. The program is free of charge and sends staff and Pfizer vaccines from Walgreens and CVS locations to these facilities. The first vaccines included in this program will be provided to pharmacies the week of December 21, 2020, and the program will begin December 28, 2020. [Read the full press release](#) for more information.

Around the Township



Tune in to The Pavilion's Virtual Holly Jolly Jingle Tomorrow Night

Join The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion and Conroe Independent School District for a virtual Holly Jolly Jingle filmed on The Pavilion's Main Stage! With host Sally MacDonald from FOX26, a visit from the big man himself and special surprises of all kinds, you won't to miss this joyful celebration that will premiere Wednesday, December 16, at 6 p.m. on [The Pavilion's YouTube channel](#). [Read the full press release](#).

Travel Confidently in The Woodlands

Making travel plans this holiday season? Whether you're looking to stay in The Woodlands or just here for the day, don't forget to #WearAMask. Wearing a mask and social distancing are some of the ways you can #TravelConfidently in The Woodlands.

Local hotels are offering special offers for the holidays, [check out the Visit The Woodlands website](#) to book directly. All of The Woodlands hotel properties are open and have implemented enhanced health and safety procedures, as recommended by the CDC. To learn more, click on the "COVID-19 Updates" button within each hotel listing. Read [additional information from the CDC](#) regarding holiday travel.

Community Resources

Numerous resources are available in the community for support. These vary from food banks to financial assistance and much more. Please visit the [Community Resources webpage](#) to find more information about resources in the community related to COVID-19.

The Woodlands Township COVID-19 eNewsletter

The Woodlands Township COVID-19 (Coronavirus) informational newsletter is published every Tuesday and Thursday and as needed. [Manage your notifications and subscriptions](#).



Township's Coronavirus Page

The Woodlands Township's COVID-19 page can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19. This page features Montgomery and Harris county hubs, community resources and news from the Federal Government and the CDC. It also includes the latest news from the Township, partner agencies, important links, FAQs, live Twitter feeds and more.

Stay Connected with The Woodlands Township

Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed.

Sign up directly for news and alerts from the Township at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme. Additional information can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/emergency.

The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme. This newsletter is published every Tuesday and Thursday, or as needed.