



## -McLennan County Public Health District

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### Information for Physicians regarding Covid 19 Patients and Waco-McLennan County Public Health District Recommendations

City of Bellmead

City of Beverly Hills

City of  
Bruceville-Eddy

City of Crawford

City of Gholson

City of Golinda

City of Hallsburg

City of Hewitt

City of Lacy-Lakeview

City of Leroy

City of Lorena

City of Mart

City of McGregor

City of Moody

City of Riesel

City of Robinson

City of Ross

City of Waco

City of West

City of Woodway

McLennan County

#### **Patients being tested.**

Patient's tested for Covid 19 because of the presence of symptoms should be given instructions on self-isolation to follow while results are pending.

Symptomatic patients suspected of having Covid 19 who are not tested (e.g. due to refusal or unavailability of testing) should be given instructions on self-isolation.

Asymptomatic persons being tested do not require isolation unless they are household contacts or have been identified as close contacts by Public health

Persons being tested as part of a pre-procedure evaluation do not need to be isolated while the test is pending.

#### **Patient notification of a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should include the following regardless of whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic:**

- A positive test result indicates the potential for spread of infection to others.
- Begin isolation measures if not already started at the time of testing.
- Household contacts need to begin quarantine as well.
- Let the patient know that a representative from Public Health will contact them within 48 hours with further information regarding isolation, isolation of household contacts and identification of other close contacts. Ask them to be sure to accept the call.
- Cooperate with Public Health. Remind them that identification of close contacts is a major part of containing the spread of Covid19. Personal information regarding themselves and contacts is kept confidential and not available to other governmental agencies.
- If they need to leave home for medical care, they should call ahead to the clinician's office and notify the office of their positive status. If there is a need to call 911 for any reason it is important to notify the 911 dispatcher that there is Covid-19 present at that address.
- Confirm that the patient telephone contact number in the chart is correct. That number will go to Public Health with the report of a positive test result.

**Case investigations, identification of close contacts and contact tracing** are functions performed by the Epidemiology Department of the Public Health District. Please do not investigate close contacts as this diminishes reporting compliance when the patient is subsequently contacted by Public Health.

#### **Information to help with frequently asked questions:**

Close contact - contact within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. Wearing a face covering reduces risk of transmission of infection but close contact has still occurred.

Duration of isolation - until symptoms are improved and 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms and at least 3 days after resolution of fever.

Contagious period - 2 days before onset of symptoms and extends throughout the period of isolation. An asymptomatic person who tests positive is considered potentially contagious for 2 days prior to the testing date until 10 days after the testing date and should be isolated during that time.

Quarantine of close contacts extends 14 days after last contact with Covid-19 positive case while the case patient was in their contagious period.

Isolation instructions as provided by Public Health are attached.